

POLICY

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
(Okanagan Similkameen)**

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION (Home & School)

Reference: C-4

Approved: January 22, 2010

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION – HOME AND SCHOOL

The Board of Education of School District No. 53 recognizes the need for students to be provided with travel options to and from school as outlined in this policy.

REGULATION

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1. The Board shall consider the safety of students, distances and road conditions, availability of public transportation, number of students involved and cost of delivering the service in establishing bus routes.
2. The Board may establish a route on a temporary basis.
3. The stops on the routes shall be established to provide the safest, most efficient and cost-effective manner of transporting students to and from school. These stops could be altered from year to year. Written notice will be sent to parents/guardians advising of changes in their child's bus stop.
4. Regular bus routes are established by the Board, through the Director of Facilities, and priority for the use of school buses shall be transporting students to and from schools to attend school during regular school hours, as outlined:
 - 4.1 Students who reside further than 3.2 kilometers from their designated school by the nearest passable road; and
 - 4.2 Courtesy rider seats will be considered in the following priority:
 - 4.2.1 Courtesy riders - students enrolled in district schools (or programs) who attend a school other than their designated school;
 - 4.2.2 Child Care Courtesy - students enrolled in district schools who are in the care of either a day care provider or a family member at a residence different than their home address; that care may be in or out of the designated school's area for the home address; and
 - 4.2.3 After school courtesy - issued by schools to provide students who are registered at their school and who present a signed note from parents/guardians the opportunity to go on the bus to a stop on the route. This is not meant for large groups or friendship gatherings such as birthday parties.
 - 4.3 Courtesy riders must:
 - 4.3.1 make use of an existing bus stop on an existing route that serves the school of registration; or
 - 4.3.2 use an existing bus stop on an existing route that does not serve their school or registration, but which will require them to make their own travel arrangements between the school that the bus serves and the school of registration.

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5. Notwithstanding the above, there may be a need to give priority to unique situations, e.g. student injury, discipline transfers, custody issues or students who are unable to attend their designated school because the school is full and must attend another school while they are on the wait list. The Director of Facilities will determine the method to address these needs and may require minor route extensions or the use of custom buses if there is space and time.
6. Custom busing services for students who require extraordinary support to travel to and from school outside of the regular school bus and public transportation services will be provided by the district within its means.
7. Transportation services will not be provided to students who are not of school age.
8. All students travelling on school buses are under the jurisdiction of their principal and are subject to the code of conduct outlined by the school, district and transportation department.
 - 8.1 All students must adhere to School District No. 53's Code of Conduct for Bus Students – Appendix 1.
 - 8.2 The principal may suspend the riding privileges of any student who does not observe the code of conducts while travelling on a school bus.
9. The Board also authorizes the use of school buses for curricular or extra-curricular travel for students as outlined in Policy E4 - Field Trips. Teachers and non-teachers who are supervising a field trip may ride a school bus. All routes and stops will be solely determined by the transportation department and the Board, and if needed consultation with the RCMP and Ministry of Highways.
10. A school bus driver is authorized to cancel a run or trip, if, in his/her opinion, the current road conditions are unsafe and continuation of the trip presents a hazard to students on the bus.
11. Vehicles used to transport students must comply with the requirements of the Motor Vehicle Act and the Motor Carrier Act, the School Act and the National Safety Code, as prescribed by the Ministry of the Solicitor General.
12. Persons wishing to appeal a decision made by an employee of the Board under this policy which affects the education, health or safety of a student, may refer to Bylaw No. 19 – Parent/Student Appeals.