

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AREAS (SCHOOL OF CHOICE)

Background

The Board believes that transportation service areas are necessary to provide transportation for students to their designated schools and to facilitate the organization of its school bus transportation system. School bus routes are designed to transport students to their designated schools in the most efficient manner, in regard to both distance and ride time.

Procedures

1. The transportation service area shall be established by the Board and shall be shown on a map maintained for that purpose.
 - 1.1 This map and amendments to it, which may be made in the form of policy amendments, shall be certified by the Secretary Treasurer as being part of the Division's policy statement.
 - 1.2 This documentation may be maintained in electronic format.
2. The Board will provide school bus service in accordance with other procedures, between residences within a transportation service area and the school(s) in that transportation service area. Policy 17 – School Bus Transportation Services and Policy 18 – Alternative Programs.
3. Notwithstanding these procedures, the Board may provide transportation for a student who has been approved to attend a Division school outside the transportation service area for the purpose of accessing instruction for unique special educational needs. Such special educational needs will be approved by the Superintendent or designate.
4. A French Immersion transportation service area is established consisting of existing Peace River, Nampa and Grimshaw transportation service areas.
5. Parents who choose to have their child attend a school outside of their resident transportation service area for reasons other than this procedure will be transported out of their area by Division buses if the parents transport the child to an existing bus route, and there is seating space on the bus, which serves the desired school of choice. Transportation will be provided if the parents have:
 - 5.1 Met and discussed or wrote a letter outlining the matter with the Principal of the school in their transportation service area; and
 - 5.2 Where transportation is requested, complete the online Bus Registration form with School of Choice portion and forward the form to the Transportation Services Manager; and

- 5.3 Such transport is subject to the provision that:
 - 5.3.1 The parents will transport the child to an existing bus route which serves the desired school of choice.
 - 5.3.2 Routes will not be designed or revised to accommodate the transportation of students out of a transportation service area.
 - 5.3.3 Due to changes in demographics, school bus routes may be amended from time to time. This may necessitate a new pick-up point and pick-up time for students approved to receive transportation to attend a school of choice.
- 6. Upon receipt of the completed Bus Registration Form with the School of Choice Intent portion, the Transportation Manager will review the application for approval.
- 7. Decisions of the Transportation Manager may be appealed in writing to the Secretary Treasurer.
- 8. Decisions made by the Secretary Treasurer may be appealed to the Board.
- 9. The provisions of this Administrative Procedure do not apply to students that are transported pursuant to the terms of a transportation agreement with another school authority to a school operated by that authority.

Adopted/Revised/Revised: JUN 2016/FEB 2017/FEB 2018/JUN 2019/FEB 2021/JUL 2023

Reference: Section 4, 11, 36, 37, 52, 53, 59, 59.1, 68, 197, 222, 225 Education Act
Traffic Safety Act
Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation 121/2009
Student Transportation Regulation 250/98 (Amended A.R. 125/2005)
Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation 304/2002
Vehicle Equipment Regulation 122/2009