



Administrative Procedure 561

TRANSPORTATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Background

It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to get their children to and from school. In some circumstances, students who attend Complex Resource Programs and/or who have physical and/or intellectual challenges may be eligible to access transportation provided by the Langley school district in accordance to Policy 18. Policy 18 eligibility criteria for bussing states:

- Physically disabled students who, due to distance/severity of their disability, are unable to walk or take public transit
- Students with special needs who participate in a district program

Transportation is to be provided where possible balancing the needs of the student with the requirement to safely transport all students to school. Requests for the transportation of a student with diverse needs shall be considered on the individual circumstances of the student and the collective circumstances of the bus and bus route the special needs student rides. Transportation is NOT provided to families who have chosen to attend a school outside their catchment area. Whenever feasible, the use of regular and/or public transportation should be considered to enhance student independence.

Procedures

1. Students with diverse needs that are mobile and exhibit a high level of self control may be transported on the same basis as a regular passenger.
2. Students with diverse needs that are not mobile or do not exhibit a high level of self control may be transported to and from school provided that:
 - 2.1 Eligibility of the student is to be completed in consultation with Learning Support Services staff in order to provide information that may assist with a decision.
 - 2.2 The District Principal, Learning Support Services is responsible for directing specific modifications that may be required to attend to the specific needs of the student.
 - 2.3 The bus driver, monitor parents, principal and special education assistant keep an open line of communications regarding the needs and progress of the student.
 - 2.4 Where the student is secured through a harness or locking mechanism (as in the case of a wheelchair) that appropriate arrangements be made by the bus driver to release the student and assist them to safety in the case of an emergency.

2.5 If applicable, the principal must provide all bus drivers with a copy of the student's IEP, Behaviour Support Plan and/or Employee Safety Plan.

3. Applications for accessing diverse transportation can be obtained through district integration teachers.

3.1.1 All applications must be completed in full and submitted to the District Principal of Learning Support Services for final approval.

3.1.2 Eligibility is only required one time. Once eligible, families can renew annually directly with Transportation by completing the online form.

Reference: Sections 22, 23, 65, 85 School Act

Adopted: December 15, 2020