

Policy Title	Transportation		
Date of Issue	June 20, 2000	Related Procedure	AP 6502-D; TCP-A001 to TCP-A015; TCP-B001-B014
Revision Dates	June 29, 2004; September 16, 2008; February 16, 2010; October 19, 2010; February 21, 2012 (rev. Rationale-Strategic Plan); June 21, 2016; September 22, 2020	Related Forms	Online Incident Reporting Form
Review Date	September 1, 2025	Originator	Board of Trustees
References			
AP 6515 "Video Cameras on School Buses"; Education Act, Part VI, Section 190 Transportation of Pupils; BP 6212-D and AP 6212-D "Boundaries (School Attendance Areas)"; AP 6819-D "Safe and Accepting Schools Incident Reporting"; AP 6820-D "Suspensions and Expulsions"; Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act			

1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 Bluewater District School Board Policies will support and provide direction necessary to achieve the board's Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan priorities.
- 1.2 The Education Act does not place mandatory responsibility on school boards to provide transportation. Therefore, transportation is a privilege not a right, and responsibility for getting to and from school rests with the student and parents/guardians. Bluewater District School Board recognizes that providing transportation services for its students is necessary to ensure equality of access to the board's schools and programs.
- 1.3 In coordination with the Student Transportation Service Consortium of Grey Bruce, Bluewater District School Board will provide safe and reliable transportation, within the financial resources available, for certain students within the jurisdiction of the board.
- 1.4 Bluewater District School Board will prioritize the values of accessibility, equity, and inclusivity in the operationalization of this policy.

2.0 POLICY - STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE CONSORTIUM OF GREY-BRUCE

- 2.1 The Education Act permits a school board to provide transportation service for students under its jurisdiction, it is therefore the policy of Bluewater District School Board to provide the following services:
 - a) regular service for students residing within established transportation boundaries
 - b) transportation for special needs students
 - c) appropriate transportation services for students of the board in attendance at approved provincial schools
 - d) transportation for school-sponsored educational, sports and general-interest programs, within the limits established by the annual budget and/or subject to board approval where required
- 2.2 Bluewater District School Board and Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board together form the Student Transportation Services Consortium of Grey-Bruce (established January 2007), hereafter known as The Consortium, which is responsible for the purchase of, among other things, transportation services. The Consortium will therefore provide the following services on behalf of the board:

- a) all route planning activities.
- b) bus operator contract development.
- c) bus operator rate negotiation. All changes in rates will be approved by the board.
- d) bus operator invoice reconciliations and approval.
- e) operational procedures for the effective and efficient delivery of students from home to and from school.
- f) ongoing and regular communication with parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding the transportation of their children.

2.3 The Consortium is governed by a management board that is comprised of the senior business official of each member board.

2.4 The provision of appropriate transportation services shall take into consideration such factors as safety, types of roads, road maintenance, existing routes, availability of buses, practicality, and cost to the board.

3.0 SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS

3.1 Attendance and Transportation service for kindergarten students wishing to enroll at "French Immersion Schools":

- a) Where a student wishes to enrol in a French Immersion program commencing with grade one, and where the French Immersion program is not offered at their home school, permission to enrol in the English Kindergarten program at the designated French Immersion school will be granted on the condition that
 - i) the student transfers to the French Immersion program commencing with grade one; failing this transfer, the student will be required to return to the home school (as defined in the attendance/transportation boundaries)
 - ii) there is sufficient room in the class.
- b) Where there is no bus route that services the custodial parents'/guardians' residence, they will accept the responsibility to provide their own transportation to and from the school or the nearest bus route serving the school where they wish to have their children attend.

3.2 Walk expectations are set by the board and administered by The Consortium. Bluewater District School Board walk expectations are as follows:

- a) 1.6 km is the bus eligibility criterion for elementary and secondary schools
- b) where possible, no student eligible for transportation will be required to walk more than 0.8 km from their home address to a bus stop.

3.3 Agreement with parents/guardians:

Where it is not practical, due to road conditions, distance, scheduling, number of students, bus capacity, etc., to provide regular bus service for students residing in an area which is not serviced by transportation, parents/guardians requesting transportation to school for their children may be offered reimbursement to provide transportation by vehicle; the compensation should not exceed the board approved per kilometre rate.

3.4 It is the responsibility of the principal or designate to supervise the daily transportation of students to and from school. In accordance with AP 6820-D "Suspensions and Expulsions", it is understood that a

student under suspension is not eligible for transportation services on school buses. The Bus Operator will receive written notification of a student suspension stating the period of such suspension.

- 3.5 Bluewater District School Board endorses the use of school bus safety programs and will sponsor annual training in conjunction with The Consortium.
- 3.6 Where a change to school start-up or dismissal time would affect the efficiency of the transportation system, the superintendent(s) of business or designate will convene a meeting of the area superintendent(s), the principal(s), consortium personnel and the bus operators to consider the implication at the school level and to arrive at a decision.
- 3.7 Bluewater District School Board, where otherwise not specified within this policy, will follow the policies and procedures of The Consortium.