

## PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### 15. SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

#### *Purpose of the Standard*

To provide details of the board's transportation policies to the ministry and to the public

Special Needs Eligibility and Access to Transportation:

#### **1. STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

(includes students in regular classrooms)

Subsequent to the IPRC assessment and review, Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) forward approved lists of students identified to special education programs to the Student Transportation Department for assignment of stops and bus routes. Other than the students with no identified special needs attending a special education program at their normal school of attendance, basically all identified students are considered eligible for transportation.

Information provided by the SERTs typically defines the level of transportation service provided. Students with physical, emotional, behavioural and other identified exceptionalities are provided with door to door service. All others are assigned to central pick up locations in the vicinity of their home. Other than for students attending a special program in their home school, special education students are transported on 20 passenger vans, 5 passenger mini vans, wheelchair vehicles and, occasionally, taxis.

#### **2. STUDENTS IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN CARE, TREATMENT AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES:**

Service for this category of student is generally to destinations outside of Peel (typically Toronto). As opposed to class lists, specific requirements and details regarding the student and service requirements are received from the SERT and, potentially, the receiving care/treatment centre. Service is provided utilizing either contracted mini van or taxis.

#### **3. STUDENTS ATTENDING PROVINCIAL AND DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS:**

The Provincial Schools provide a list of students, from Peel and Region, who are enrolled in the Provincial School. Transportation staff designs a segregated route system, almost exclusively using 5 passenger mini vans, for both daily and weekly residential students. Communication is directly with parents regarding pick up and drop off times as well as necessary adjustments. Revisions to student data and new or deleted student information is received from the Provincial school on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

Current students transported	E.C. Drury	43
	Trillium	3
	W. Ross Macdonald	10

#### **4. STUDENTS TRANSPORTED TO SUMMER SCHOOL:**

No transportation service is provided for secondary students attending summer school, elementary summer school (Grade 7 and 8) students are provided with busing to the designated summer school site--

Centralized stops, located only at schools, are established for this service and route information is provided to all schools prior to the end of June. Students are required to get themselves to the centralized stops. Exceptions to this apply only in the case of physically challenged students or exceptional rural circumstances.

Transportation to care and treatment facilities are maintained during the summer months for those students approved and designated as 12 month attendees. As noted in section 3, service is provided either with 5 seat mini vans or taxis and, where necessary, wheelchair vehicles.

#### **SAFETY CRITERIA:**

Special needs students identified by SERTs as "ride alone" are transported individually. Where necessary, an adult travel assistant is also assigned to a vehicle to monitor and assist designated students. Adjustments to "ride alone" status may occur during the course of the school year based on observed behaviour while being transported. Typically, problems which arise are identified by the driver, to the school administration and transportation department and a decision to revise the transportation status will be considered on the basis of this information.

Wheelchair service for physically challenged students is provided by 4 bus operators, all with considerable experience in this type of service. All vehicles used comply with all regulations, including wheelchair securement processes and devices. Drivers are specifically selected for this service based on experience, personality and driving record.

Where appropriate, harnesses are used for students requiring a securement device. Decisions regarding use of a harness are based on observations of the bus driver, school staff, or parent. Harnesses are only implemented in situations where a student's behaviour on the bus is potentially jeopardizing his/her own safety or the safety of others on the bus.

Students identified with specific exceptionalities (physically handicapped, emotional, behaviour) must be met by a parent or guardian upon return from school or they will be returned to the school. Where necessary, specific health problems potentially encountered while in transit are identified to the appropriate driver along with required driver actions.

Submitted by: Tom Howe  
Manager of Student Transportation

#### **Criteria and Training for Drivers**

In partnership with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, the Peel District School Board uses 3 transportation providers. Each company trains their staff to varying degrees with respect to the transportation of exceptional students. The following outlines the range of training provided.

All companies require a criminal record check.

One company provides special need training to all drivers

Two companies provides training on an individual needs basis to drivers transporting special needs students

One company trains all drivers on the use of epi-pens, while another provides training throughout the year on particular areas, including but not limited to the use of epi-pens and evacuation.

Inclusions:

1. Operating Procedure: Finance and Administration 17
2. Operating Procedure: Special Education Support Services 13
3. Early Dismissal Information Form
4. Request for Transportation Form