



Document Category:	Policy Statement
Document Name:	Transportation Eligibility
Approved By:	Board of Directors
Approved Date:	March 2009 Revised April 2010 Revised March 2016 Revised January 2020

1. Policy Scope

The policy document applies to all enrolled students of the member school boards within the Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services service area.

2. Policy Statement

Southwestern Ontario Transportation Services (“STS”) is responsible for determining which students are eligible for bussing based on the distance eligibility policy.

Students attending their board-designated schools are eligible for distance-based transportation from their primary address as follows:

- Elementary aged students who reside greater than 1.6 kms from the school site
- Secondary aged students who reside greater than 3.2 kms from the school site

If a residential address does not qualify for transportation based on distance as determined by STS, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to determine how the student will arrive at and depart from school.

For transportation-eligible students, STS offers a scheduled, fixed route transportation model whereby eligible riders are assigned to both specific bus routes and bus stop locations. The service does not allow for flexible ridership for safety reasons and requests for assignments to other bus routes/stops for circumstances like part-time jobs, lessons, visitation at a friend’s house etc. will be denied by the school, bus company and/or STS. Parents/guardians remain responsible for transportation arrangements that are beyond the scope of the service model provided by STS.

3. Policy Action Items

The technical determination of whether an address is eligible for transportation based on distance is done by a computation in a transportation planning software to ensure consistency throughout the district. The software uses GIS data provided by the municipalities, including the road and walkway network. The computation determines if an address is eligible based on the location of the perimeter property edges of the address



relative to the school address using the shortest travel route. The distance computation is excluded from the Problem Resolution process as the software utilized by STS is the sole determinant of measurement.

4. Forms

There are no forms associated with this policy.

5. Related Policies

<http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca/uploads/primary-address.pdf>

<http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca/uploads/alternate-address-for-transportation-purposes.pdf>

<http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca/uploads/eligibility-joint-custody-transportation-secondary-address-for-students-attending-an-elementary-school.pdf>

<http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca/uploads/eligibility-joint-custody-transportation-secondary-address-for-students-attending-a-secondary-school.pdf>

<http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca/uploads/use-of-a-vacant-seat.pdf>

<http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca/uploads/exemptionstodistancebasedeligibility-mar17.pdf>

<http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca/uploads/problemresolution-mar2017.pdf>