

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Background

Transportation for students with special needs is to be provided where possible, balancing the needs of all students. Requests for the transportation of a student with special needs will be considered on the individual circumstances of the student and the collective circumstances of the bus and bus route the student with special needs rides.

Procedures

1. If the Principal of the school believes the student will benefit from specialized supports in order to successfully ride the school bus, they must complete the -Transportation of Students with Special Needs Application Form (Appendix C) and submit it (along with a copy of the student's ISP and behavior plan) to the Director-Inclusive Learning
2. Students with special needs that are mobile and exhibit a high level of self-control may be transported on a school bus on the same basis as a regular passenger.
3. Students with special needs that are not mobile or do not exhibit a high level of self-control may be transported to and from school provided that:
 - 3.1. An evaluation of the student is completed by the Director - Inclusive Learning, to provide information to assist with a decision. If a student is deemed to need specialized transportation, the Director of Inclusive Learning will collect relevant details from the Principal and parents regarding the student's needs and notify the Transportation Services.
 - 3.2. An Instructional Support Plan (ISP) is completed; such plan to include specific program needs and goals that relate to riding independently on a school bus.
 - 3.3. The Director - Inclusive Learning, in collaboration with the school Learning Support Teacher are responsible for directing specific modifications that may be required to attend to the specific needs of the student.
 - 3.4. The Director – Inclusive Learning will consult with the Director Transportation Services to determine if bus service with the recommended modifications is possible for the student.
 - 3.5. Students must be able to follow the School Bus Rider Rules to ensure the safety of all passengers. A copy of the School Bus Rider Rules (Appendix B) will be provided to parents for review prior to the students' first day on the bus.
 - 3.6. Transportation Services will ensure appropriate training is provided to the bus driver and other persons involved with the transportation of the student.
 - 3.7. The bus driver, parents, principal and special needs aide keep an open line of communications regarding the needs and progress of the student.
 - 3.8. 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.

Reference: Education Act
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy 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

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