

Understanding Transportation Services

Funding

Transportation is funded by grants provided from the provincial government. School Boards must manage transportation service levels to enable funding to cover the cost of vehicles, fuel, maintenance and driver wages.

In order to manage costs, school boards are required to set policy and determine rider eligibility.

Provincial Standards

Currently there are no provincial service level standards; however the majority of school boards have very similar levels of service to those offered in York Region and presented in this document.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OF YORK REGION

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Vehicle Routing and Costs

The majority of school buses in York Region have multiple routes and serve multiple schools for the Catholic and Public school boards. Multiple routes are accomplished through staggered bell times which reduce the need for several buses and drivers to one driver and one bus. With over 900 buses completing in excess of 3600 routes each day, this way of routing saves millions of dollars, which makes more funding available for the classroom.

As school buses are shared by the Catholic and Public school boards, a method to divide the cost of routes fairly is required. As a result, costs are shared according to Board Ridership. Therefore every student that accesses a school bus costs their Board a Ridership Fee.

School Boundaries and School Bus Service

Each student in York Region is assigned to a neighbourhood school or program by the Catholic and Public Boards based on their home address. This school is deemed their '*Home School*'. Should a student wish to attend a school other than their Home School, they may do so under the following conditions:

1. There is attendance space at the school of choice.
2. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/caregiver.

By limiting Transportation Eligibility to school and/or program boundaries, Boards are able to responsibly manage costs to reflect funding levels.

School Bus Transportation Eligibility

In accordance with Board Policies, transportation is provided for students who live within their Home School attendance area and outside their school's grade appropriate Non-Transportation Zone. As indicated below, transportation eligibility will change throughout a student's school career:

- All YCDSB and YRDSB students in grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation.
- All YCDSB and YRDSB students in grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation.
- All YCDSB students in grades 9-12 who live within 4.8 km of their school in a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.
- All YRDSB students in grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

Please note exceptions to these criteria are made for students identified by their school to possess Special Needs and as such require specialized transportation services.