



Standard 7

Transportation for Students with Special Education Needs



Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
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Transportation for Students with Special Education Needs

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board contracts with the Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO) to provide transportation to qualifying students in its jurisdiction. STSCO works closely with Special Education Services to provide equitable access to transportation for students with special needs.

Transportation for Students in Special Education Programs (Learning and Life Skills Programs)

Students who are placed by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) decision in Special Education programs, with parent consent, in their home school community will either walk to school or use existing transportation provided if they are beyond the established walking distances. When students are placed these same Special Education programs but they are outside their home school attendance area and outside of walking distances established by the Board, then transportation is provided for these students.

Transportation for Students with Medical Needs – Home School Attendance Area Walk Zone

Students with diagnosed medical conditions which preclude their ability to walk to and from their home school unassisted may be provided with transportation following a review of their needs, supporting medical documentation, and a discussion between school staff and the System Principal of Special Education.

Transportation for Students – Home School Attendance Area Bus Zone

The transportation needs of each student are assessed on an individual basis. The first consideration is transportation on the standard school bus. Special provisions such as a bus monitor will be considered where necessary to assist the student in maintaining this level of independence and inclusion. In some cases a smaller, specialized bus may be required to ensure student safety and to allow for the transporting of wheelchairs. Should individuals require closer supervision, a bus monitor may be considered to assist in this setting as well. In some cases, individual student transportation may need to be considered. This may be provided in the form of a taxi. This decision is based upon the physical, safety, and behavioural needs of the student through consultation between the school Principal and the System Principal of Special Education.

Students in Education, Community Partnership Programs (Section 23, formerly CTCC)

If the parent/guardian receives permission to access an ECPP program outside of the home school attendance area, then responsibility for transportation rests with the parent/ guardian. Permission to utilize existing transportation routes must be requested, in writing, on the prescribed form and is subject to available space and compliance with transportation policy.

Students in Provincial and Demonstration Schools

The Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB provides transportation for day and residential students attending

Provincial and Demonstration schools, such as Sagonaska and Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf. Students who live within a 30 km radius of such a Provincial school and who are designated by the school as day students are provided with daily transportation. Students who live beyond that radius and/or students who may elect to be residential students are transported on a weekly basis to and from the Provincial and Demonstration schools.

Summer School Bussing

The transportation department maintains a very streamlined, skeletal transportation route to service those students attending summer school programs. For students requiring specialized transportation, arrangements are made through consultation with the student's Summer School Principal and STSCO.

Board Tendering for Transportation of Students with Special Needs

To date, the Board does not have separate, specialized criteria when considering the tendering of transportation for exceptional students. As per general population transporters, all Kawartha Pine Ridge transporters and bus drivers must hold a "B-Z Licence" which includes a criminal reference check. Bus operators provide evidence of criminal offence screening. Professional development is available upon request. As well, operators are provided information as appropriate for individual emergency plans for students. The Board includes equity, diversity, and inclusion principles in its general tendering processes.

For more information on transportation, visit [the STSCO website](#).