



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT

Section: Business and Administrative Services

- **Transportation**

Policy Code: BA-8.6

Policy: TRANSPORTATION: STUDENT SAFETY

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Safety is of paramount importance to the Board when dealing with students who either walk and/or are transported to school. As a result, the Board encourages and supports the utilization of school safety patrols, school bus safety patrols and adult crossing guards (recognizing that the allocation and management of crossing guards falls under the authority of local municipalities), and “Walking School Bus” programs. “Walking School Bus” programs are programs facilitated and supported by some health units and run by the school community where volunteer parents walk children to and from school.

The Board offers transportation to students using a variety of vehicle types. For certain pupils with special needs, the vehicles alone are not sufficient. As a result, vehicles must be adapted in order to provide the safest possible environment. Therefore, the Board authorizes the use of special apparatus on-board vehicles to facilitate this requirement.

The Board recognizes the importance of conducting an annual school bus evacuation program that informs students of the safety features of a school purpose vehicle and how to deal with unexpected emergency situations while being transported.

From an environmental perspective, the Board acknowledges the need to address concerns which exist regarding exhaust fumes from idling school vehicles.

In addition, the Board recognizes the need to make provisions for the transportation of students with life threatening allergies.

In the event of a provincially or locally declared state of emergency or health pandemic, the Board will ensure that Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO) follows the prescribed bus transportation safety guidelines as set out by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and/or local public health units.

Administrative regulations will reflect the philosophy of this policy.

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