

Special Education Department Plan 2023-2024

Section B - Standard 7 Transportation for Students with Special Education Needs



Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
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Standard 7

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, Primary Communications Classes)

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 in Special Education programs but reside outside their home school attendance area and outside of walking distances established by the Board, then transportation will be 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. In some cases a smaller, specialized bus may be required to ensure student safety and to allow for the transporting of wheelchairs. 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 and will be monitored on a regular basis.

Students in Education and 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, [as per the Student Transportation Services out of Boundary Memo](#) requests are subject to available space and in 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.

Board Tendering for Transportation of Students with Special Needs

Currently the Board has posted an RFP for large and small school vehicles, which includes special needs vehicles. This RFP is scheduled to take effect for September 2024. All special needs vehicles under this RFP must meet the same requirements as our regular large school buses (i.e Class B driver with criminal background check, First Aid/CPR Training etc) In addition, to these vehicles, the Board will continue to maintain a list of qualified taxi/transportation companies that are available to transport special needs students. When required, the Board will request a quote from these companies. Similar to our contracted bus companies, these additional companies must qualify each year by providing the Board with an annual confirmation that all drivers have signed a confidentiality agreement, hold a valid class E or B license in good standing and have a current criminal background check, vulnerable sector check on file and all drivers have submitted an annual offence declaration. These companies must also confirm that all driver license abstracts have been reviewed and all drivers have up to date and current First Aid/CPR and Anaphylaxis training. 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](#).

The following [Board policies and administrative regulations](#) address transportation:

BA-8.2 Bus Operator Contracted Services

BA-8.3 Route Operation

BA-8.4 Safety and Conduct on School Buses

BA-8.5 Bus Accidents and Resulting Injuries

BA-8.6 Transportation - Student Safety