



Policy Section: **Business and Administrative Matters**

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Policy Name: **Accessibility Standards for School Transportation**

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Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) to ensure that accessible school transportation services are provided for students with disabilities/special needs in a manner that meets their unique needs and ensures their safety. Where appropriate and practicable, integrated accessible school transportation services will be provided.

The provision of accessible student transportation services will be included in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) for each student who has a disability/special need that affects their transportation to and from school. The plan will be developed by the Board's Special Education Services in collaboration with the Transportation Provider and in consultation with the student's parents or guardians.

Rationale

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board is committed to providing high-quality services to its students, parents/guardians, the public, and its staff that are free of barriers and biases. The KPDSB strives to ensure that key principles of independence, dignity, inclusion, and equality of opportunity are reflected and valued in its learning and working environments. KPDSB's conduct will demonstrate its belief in the strength diversity brings to its communities.

Definitions

"Individual School Transportation Plan" is a plan that provides details of the arrangements that meet the transportation needs of an individual student who has a disability.

"Operator" means the driver of the school transportation vehicle.

"Transportation Provider" is an entity, or person, who has entered into an agreement with the Board for the transportation of students in accordance with the Education Act.

"Transportation Services" means transportation that a Board provides for students in accordance with the Education Act.



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“**Student Transportation Manager**” means the General Manager of the Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium (NOSSC).

Guidelines

1. Responsibility

- a) The Board will ensure that the provisions of this policy are in place by January 1, 2014.
- b) The Superintendent responsible for Special Education and the managerial staff responsible for student transportation will ensure that the provisions of this policy are implemented.
- c) The Board will provide training for its employees and volunteers regarding Integrated Accessibility Standards Ontario Regulation (IASR) and the Ontario Human Rights Code as they pertain to individuals with disabilities. Training will also be provided to individuals who are responsible for developing Board policies, and all other persons who provide goods, services, or facilities on behalf of the Board.

2. Individual School Transportation Plans

- a) The Superintendent responsible for Special Education, or Designate, will, in consultation with parents/guardians, annually identify students with disabilities/special needs who require specific transportation services. Such identification will, wherever possible, be made prior to the commencement of the school year.
- b) Following consultation with parents/guardians, the Superintendent responsible for Special Education, or Designate, will work with the Student Transportation Manager, or Designate, to develop an individual student transportation plan for each student with a disability/special need who requires specific transportation services which will be included in the student’s IEP.

3. Content of Individual School Transportation Plans

An individual school transportation plan shall, in respect of each student with a disability/special need requiring specific transportation services, include the following:

- Details of the student’s assistance needs with respect to transportation to and from school; and
- Provisions for boarding, securement, and debarking of the student as applicable.



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4. Communication of Responsibilities (re: School Transportation Plans)

The Superintendent responsible for Special Education and, where applicable, the Student Transportation Manager, will identify and communicate roles and responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the Individual School Transportation Plan to the following:

- The Transportation Provider;
- The parents/guardians of the student with the disability;
- The Operator of the student transportation vehicle;
- The appropriate members of the school staff (i.e., Principal, teacher, educational assistant, etc.); and
- The student with the disability/special need.