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Statement and Rationale

Maintaining a high standard of safety and acceptable conduct during home to school transportation is a shared responsibility that includes Parents/Legal Guardians.

## Procedure

#### 1.0 Transportation Arrangements

Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for requesting home to transportation, separately from the school registration process. Transportation requests can be submitted to the Consortium online through <a href="https://www.nwobus.ca">www.nwobus.ca</a>, by email to <a href="https://www.nwobus.ca">bussing@nwobus.ca</a>, or by contacting the Consortium office.

Transportation registration will carry over from one school year to the next, unless there is a change to eligibility as set out in the Transportation Policy. The Consortium will attempt to contact Parents/Legal Guardians to advise of changes to eligibility.

Transportation arrangements (bus number, stop location, timing) may change from one year to the next. Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for confirming their transportation arrangements prior to the start of each school year through the Parent Portal at <a href="https://www.nwobus.ca">www.nwobus.ca</a>.

After the start of the school year, the Consortium will advise Parents/Legal Guardians of all changes impacting bussing by more than five (5) minutes.

Parents/Legal Guardians should notify the Consortium of any change of address or school attendance impacting transportation eligibility or arrangements.

Parents/Legal Guardians should be aware of their bus information, including route number, pick up and drop off location, and scheduled times.

## 2.0 Bus Delays and Cancellations

Reference to Policy 3.0 Safety, 10.0 General Implemented: 2011 Reviewed: 2021













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Parents/Legal Guardians should be aware of bus cancellations and delays that may affect their childrens' bus pick up and drop off. All cancellations and delays of fifteen (15) minutes or more will be posted at <a href="https://www.nwobus.ca">www.nwobus.ca</a>.

Parents/ Legal Guardians are also encouraged to sign up for text message and email alerts to stay informed about bus delays and cancellations.

## 3.0 Life Threatening Medical Conditions

Parents are responsible for notifying the Consortium of life threatening medical conditions, as well as providing information and additional instructions or information to keep students safe and respond in the event of an emergency.

#### 4.0 Students with Special Needs or Disabilities

Under the Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (Ontario Reg. 191/11), an Individual Transportation Plan (ITP) will be completed for each student with a disability, identified to the Consortium by Member School Boards or Parents/Legal Guardians.

Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for providing information annually to support the safe transportation of their children.

#### 5.0 Bus Safety

School bus rider safety training is provided in school annually. Parents/Legal Guardians should be aware of bus safety rules, and ensure that their children understand their responsibilities and the importance of bus safety.

# **6.0 Prohibited Objects**

Students will not be permitted to board the bus with objects that may interfere with the safe operation of the vehicle or safety of the students. Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for ensuring that students do not attempt to bring these items on the bus. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, any illegal items or items that

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are not permitted at school, hockey or football equipment, and musical instruments not in a case or too large to fit under the bus seat.

#### 7.0 Conduct and Standards of Behaviour

All students, parents, teachers, staff and members of the school community have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility for everyone to be accountable for their actions and contribute to a positive school climate.

Standards of behaviour are set by Ontario's provincial code of conduct, and each school board's code of conduct.

#### 8.0 Bus Stops

Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for the safety and conduct of their children prior to boarding and after drop off at their designated stop, this includes travelling to and from the bus stop.

Parents/Legal Guardians should ensure that their children are waiting in a safe and visible location at the designated bus stop five (5) minutes prior to the arrival of the bus, and should have a plan in place in the event that their child is not picked up by the bus (e.g. missed bus, bus cancellation).

Reference to Policy 3.0 Safety, 10.0 General Implemented: 2011 Reviewed: 2021