

CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

PURPOSE

This funding provides for the cost of transporting **expected eligible passengers** and **eligible transported ECS children** in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton.

CONDITIONS

1. Edmonton School District # 7, Edmonton Catholic Regional Division No. 7, Calgary School District No. 19 and Calgary RCSSD No. 1 school districts are eligible for urban transportation block funding.
2. Funding is determined using a **school** size "benchmark". The benchmark is the lesser of two values: the jurisdiction's average **school** size and the average **school** size in the four jurisdictions. A benchmark is determined for each of the three levels (elementary, junior high and senior high).
3. The number of **expected eligible passengers** is calculated using the following factors:
 - a) the benchmark for each level;
 - b) the number of **schools** by level;
 - c) the number of **funded students** and **ECS children**;
 - d) the residential area;
 - e) the number of **funded students with severe disabilities**.
4. The formula used to calculate urban transportation block funding contains the number of **schools** by level, the residential area, and the number of **funded students** attending **school** within the jurisdiction.
5. The **school jurisdictions** in Calgary and Edmonton which are transporting **eligible transported ECS children** to board-operated programs will be eligible for transportation funding under the Urban Block formula. The ECS enrolments will be included in the formula.
6. A **school jurisdiction** providing transportation to and from an **ECS program** may charge the **parent** of a **child** a fee for the transportation service. The total amount of the transportation fee charged to **parents** shall not exceed the total cost of the provision of ECS transportation services less the ECS transportation funding the **school jurisdiction** receives from Alberta Learning.
7. **ECS children** with disabilities who require ECS special needs transportation will be funded outside of the urban block formula at the ECS Special Needs Transportation rate. **ECS children** who qualify for Program Unit Funding (PUF) will not be included in the count of students with severe disabilities.

CONDITIONS (CONTD.)

8. **School jurisdictions** receiving urban transportation block funding must transport or make arrangements for the transport of **children** attending **ECS programs** at a service level that is consistent with the transportation of students under Section 34 (1) of the *School Act*.
9. ECS **children** will be included in the Urban Block funding formula with the following adjustments to the co-efficients/benchmarks:
- The average elementary **school** size will be adjusted to include ECS **children**,
 - The walk percentage for elementary schools will be reduced from 0.80 to 0.75 for ECS-elementary schools, and
 - The eligible enrolment co-efficient will be reduced from 0.735 to 0.730.
10. The number of **expected eligible passengers** to be included in the urban transportation block funding formula is determined as follows:

(Residential Area X 75.80)	+	[Funded Students and Children (ECS - 12) X 0.7300]	=	
LESS:				
0.75 (# of ECS-Elem. Schools)	X	Minimum of: Average ECS-Elem. School size in the jurisdiction or average school size for the 4 jurisdictions.	=	
0.400 (# of Jr. High Schools)	X	Minimum of: Average Jr. High School size in the jurisdiction or average school size for the 4 jurisdictions.	=	
0.250 (# of Sr. High Schools)	X	Minimum of: Average Sr. High School size in the jurisdiction or average school size for the 4 jurisdictions.	=	
		Expected Eligible Passengers	=	

CONDITIONS (CONTD.)

11. The urban transportation block funding a **school jurisdiction** may receive is determined as follows:

$$\text{Funding} = \frac{\text{Expected Eligible Passengers}}{\text{Expected Eligible Passengers}} \times \frac{\text{Urban Transportation Block Rate}}{\text{Urban Transportation Block Rate}} + \frac{[0.8 \times \text{Severely Disabled Students (1-12)}]}{[0.8 \times \text{Severely Disabled Students (1-12)}]} \times \frac{\text{Special Transportation Rate}}{\text{Special Transportation Rate}}$$

12. When a district is accessing the urban transportation block funding and has under its jurisdiction an area included in another municipality, the **school jurisdiction** may be re-imbursed for each **eligible passenger** transported to **school** using the rural transportation formula, or, if the municipality is a city outside of Calgary or Edmonton, for each **eligible passenger** using the urban transportation formula. A jurisdiction currently claiming under this section and seeking to claim either rural transportation (section 1.B.4) funding, or urban transportation (section 1.B.6) funding, must have approval from the **Minister**. Requests for approval should be submitted to the School Reporting Branch.
13. A **school jurisdiction** which has made an arrangement with a **charter school** to transport the **charter school's** students, may include the **funded students** attending the **charter school** for the purposes of calculating the number of expected eligible students. The **charter school** is not counted by the **school jurisdiction** in determining the number of **schools**.
14. The following conditions are used in determining the number of **schools** servicing the three **school** levels in the public and separate school boards in Edmonton and Calgary:
- Institutions, Outreach Schools, Designated Home Education Schools**, and other special schools (schools where the majority of the **funded students** are special needs students) as determined by School Finance are excluded.
 - An ECS-elementary school with fewer than 75 students is not counted.
 - An ECS-elementary school with 75 or more students and 3 or fewer grades will be counted as half an ECS-elementary school.
 - A junior high school with fewer than 75 students is not counted.
 - A senior high school with fewer than 200 but with 75 or more students is counted as a junior high school.
15. Schools providing **Year round education** will be allocated funding based on eligible passengers transported.

REQUIREMENTS

1. **School jurisdictions** are required to keep the following information on file and available for review by Alberta Learning:
 - a) Current **school jurisdiction** transportation policy,
 - b) The number of **eligible passengers** and **eligible transported ECS children**, their names, **school(s)** attended and their programs,
 - c) The names of **students** who are not attending their local **school**, and the reasons, and
 - d) Relevant detailed transportation costs for a particular school year.

CONSIDERATIONS

- NEW** 1. The basic block formula will continue for the 2001-2002 school year.
- NEW** 2. An additional \$5 million has been provided to address transportation needs. This funding will be allocated on a pro-rated basis to the metro urban boards.