

ALLOCATION FORMULA

1. A **board** of a **rural district** which is providing transportation services may receive the following rural transportation funding for each transportation year:

a) Block Funding Support

$$i) \text{ Density Support} = \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Applicable Annual} \\ \text{Density Rate per} \\ \text{Eligible Passenger/} \\ \text{Eligible} \\ \text{Transported ECS} \\ \text{Child} \end{array} \right] \times \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Applicable} \\ \text{Weighting} \\ \text{Factor} \end{array} \right] \times \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Eligible} \\ \text{Passenger/} \\ \text{Eligible} \\ \text{Transported} \\ \text{ECS Child} \end{array} \right]$$

$$ii) \text{ Distance Support} = \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Applicable} \\ \text{Annual Distance} \\ \text{Rate} \end{array} \right] \times \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Applicable Eligible} \\ \text{Transportation Distance (kms)} \\ \text{for each Eligible Passenger} \end{array} \right]$$

Total Block Funding support is the aggregate of the amounts calculated for each **eligible passenger** and **eligible transported ECS child** in i) and ii) above.

b) Inter-School Transportation Support

Support to a **school jurisdiction** for a bus providing inter-school transportation to each group of 66 weighted **eligible passengers**, or portion thereof, is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Inter-school Support} = \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Daily Kms of Inter-} \\ \text{School Transportation} \\ \text{for the bus} \end{array} \right] \times \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Number of Days of Inter-} \\ \text{School Transportation in the} \\ \text{school year for the bus} \end{array} \right] \times \text{Support Rate}$$

The total annual support for inter-school transportation is the aggregate of the amounts calculated for each bus providing inter-school transportation.

c) Bus Modification or Purchase Allowance to Accommodate Wheelchair Passengers

Refer to Section 1.18, Special Transportation.

ALLOCATION CRITERIA

1. Where a **board** of a **rural district** has under its jurisdiction or transports an **eligible passenger** or **eligible transported ECS child** of a city, town, village or hamlet with a

population greater than 10,000, the **board** may be funded for each **eligible passenger** and for each **eligible transported ECS child** residing within those boundaries. The rate applicable is the rate for Urban Transportation. These students cannot be included as **eligible passengers** under the Rural Transportation formula. A **board** of a **rural district** claiming both urban and rural transportation must have received prior approval from the **Minister**. Applications for approval should be submitted to the School Reporting Branch.

Where a **board** of a **rural district** has under its jurisdiction a city, town, village or hamlet with a population less than 10,000 and transports an **eligible passenger** or **eligible transported ECS child** residing within those boundaries to a **school** of a program listed under Consideration # 3 of this Section outside those boundaries, the **board** may be reimbursed for each **eligible passenger** and for each transported ECS **child** under the Rural Transportation formula. These students may not be included as **eligible passengers** under the Urban Transportation formula.

Where the net support for student transportation of a **board** increases or decreases in excess of 3% as a result of a community population reaching 10,000, the adjustment will be determined for that jurisdiction.

Where the net support for student transportation of a rural **board** decreases in excess of 3% as a result of movement between **density** grid columns, an adjustment may be determined for that jurisdiction.

2. Block Funding:

- a) If a student who is not a **resident student** of the **board** accesses that **board's** transportation system in accordance with the *Student Transportation Regulation*, section 4, at a point 2.4 kilometres or more from the **school** attended, and where there is not a **transportation agreement** or an **education services agreement** between the **resident board** and the **board** providing transportation, the **board** providing transportation service may claim only the **density** support for that student.
- b) If a **board** extends its transportation service outside its jurisdiction boundaries to provide service to a non-resident student not covered by a **transportation agreement** or an **education services agreement** between the **resident board** and the **board** providing transportation, the **board** providing transportation service is not eligible for transportation funding for that student.
- c) If a **resident student** of a **board** is transported by the **board** to a **school** of the **parent's** choice outside the attendance area or transportation service area (as defined in the *Student Transportation Regulation*) of the **designated school** for that student, only **density** support and **distance** support to the nearest **school** may be claimed for that student if he or she is an **eligible passenger**. Where a **board** has adopted over-lapping **school** attendance or transportation service areas, **density** support and **distance** support to the **school** nearest the student's residence may be claimed.

- d) In the case of a **school jurisdiction** which is providing transportation in only a portion of its area, for those **eligible passengers** residing in the jurisdiction but beyond the transportation service area and are transported through co-operative bussing arrangements with other **school authorities**, area and **density** for the **school jurisdiction** shall be calculated on the basis of the area directly served by the **school jurisdiction** and the **eligible passengers** residing in that area.
- e) If a **board** is providing transportation services under an agreement with another **board** and the two **boards** are not sharing a co-terminus area, the area of the **board** receiving transportation services may be added to the transporting **board's** area for determining the **density** rating for the transporting **board**.
- f) Block funding under this section is available only to **boards** operating student transportation systems. A **board** accessing transportation services for its **resident students** through **educational services agreements** or **transportation agreements** is not eligible for block funding under this section.
- g) Notwithstanding subsection (f), a **board** transporting an **eligible passenger** of another **board** under a **transportation agreement** to the **designated school** of that **resident board**, who resides outside the transportation service area of the **resident board** and accesses the bus route of the **board**, may claim the **density** and the **distance** support from the **designated school** to the point where the student accesses the bus route for that **school**. The **resident board** may claim only the **distance** support from the residence of the student to the point where the student accesses the bus route for the **designated school**, at the **distance** rate received by the transporting **board**.
- h) **Students with disabilities** transported by a **school bus** on a special route for **students with disabilities** may be claimed under this Section using a **weighting factor** of 3 or under Section 1.18, whichever is most advantageous to the **board**.

3. ECS Transportation:

- a) A **school jurisdiction** that claims ECS Regular Transportation 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 51 (1) of the *School Act*.
- b) 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 fees charged to ECS **parents** for transportation services shall not exceed the total cost of the provision of ECS transportation services less the ECS transportation funding received from Alberta Learning.
- c) Each **eligible transported ECS child** transported will be counted as 1.0 weighted passenger in determining block funding support.

d) A **school jurisdiction** may claim **eligible transported ECS children** it transports to programs operated by another **board**, a **private school**, or a **private ECS operator** as **eligible passengers** if the **board** has an agreement with the other **board**, **private school**, or **private ECS operator**.

4. Inter-school Transportation

a) Inter-school transportation for students whose courses of study require a special facility or equipment not available in the **school** they attend, may be claimed for support provided that:

- The course of study is prescribed or approved by the **Minister** under the *School Act*, Section 39;
- The course of study requires a special facility or equipment not available at the **school** of daily attendance for those students; and
- The course of study requires the use of the special facility or equipment for at least 18 consecutive weeks.

b) Work Experience programs and intermittent bussing to such activities as swimming programs are **not** eligible for inter-school transportation support.

5. Funding shall not be paid under this section for a **funded student** or an **ECS child** who is counted under the Special Transportation funding (Section 1.18).

Revised 6. Transportation support shall be paid from the student's residence to the **school** in the attendance area or transportation service area in which the student resides unless the student is directed by the **board** to attend another **school** for the following:

- **Alternative french language programs** (including French immersion and bilingual programs) and **other language immersion programs**
- Integrated Occupational Program (IOP);
- Special Education programs to meet the needs of students with severe disabilities;
- High school CTS programs offered to an advanced level in a specialized classroom facility where the course curriculum requires the instructor to have the technical trade qualification (Courses include Mechanics, Fabrication Studies, Cosmetology and Construction Technology);

7. Students transported by a **board** to an **on-line program** or an **outreach program** accessing 50 percent or more of their educational program at a **school** of the **board** or to a **blended program** at a **school** of the **board** may be claimed as **eligible passengers** under Rural Transportation.

PROCEDURES, DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING

1. Rural **school jurisdictions** are required to submit electronically a Rural Transportation claim form to the School Reporting Branch by November 30. Payment

is made on the basis of the submitted information, the rural transportation funding rates, and in accordance with the *School Act* and the *Student Transportation Regulation, A.R. 250/98; amended A.R. 197/2000*.

2. The **count date** for Rural Transportation funding is September 30. Special consideration for the **count date** may be given to **school jurisdictions** experiencing exceptional growth in transportation needs.
3. The **effective transportation area** of a **school jurisdiction** for purposes of calculating **density** support is the **effective transportation area** of the **school jurisdiction** as of September 30 in a given year.
4. **School jurisdictions** are required to retain the following information on file for a minimum of three years and make it available for review by Alberta Learning upon request. Items a), b), c), and d) should be kept in an electronic file and made available to Alberta Learning either electronically or on a computer disc.
 - a) Maps of overall attendance areas and transportation service areas;
 - b) Location of each student's residence (street addresses in towns, villages and hamlets, and where available in rural areas, and legal land descriptions in all other rural areas);
 - c) Maps of individual bus routes;
 - d) A list of names of **eligible transported ECS children** transported by bus and the names and grades of **eligible passengers**;
 - e) Records of **route distance** verified by an official(s) of the **school jurisdiction**;
 - f) Copies of **educational services agreements**;
 - g) Copies of **transportation agreements** with **school boards, private schools, charter schools** and **private ECS operators**;
 - h) Copies of current vehicle inspection certificates issued under the *Safety Traffic Act*; and
 - i) Copies of contracts with:
 - (i) Operators of contracted busses for regular transportation;
 - (ii) **Parents** providing transportation indicating the amount to be paid; and
 - (iii) Agents providing special transportation for **students with disabilities**.

Revised

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. **First Nations students** shall not be counted as **eligible passengers**.