

ALLOCATION DESCRIPTION

This funding is provided to rural **school jurisdictions** to address the costs associated with providing efficient transportation for **eligible passengers/eligible transported ECS children**. This is an allocation method only; **school jurisdictions** have the flexibility to use these funds to best meet their local needs.

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) **Rural Transportation Support**

i)	Density Support	=	Applicable Annual Density Rate per Eligible Passenger/Eligible Transported ECS Child	X	Applicable Weighting Factor	X	Eligible Passenger/Eligible Transported ECS Child
ii)	Distance Support	=	Applicable Annual Distance Rate	X	Applicable Eligible Transportation Distance (kms) for each Eligible Passenger/Eligible Transported ECS Child		

Total rural transportation 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:

Inter-School Support	=	Daily km's of Inter-School Transportation for the bus	X	Number of Days of Inter-School Transportation in the school year for the bus	X	Support Rate
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The total annual support for inter-school transportation is the aggregate of the amounts calculated for each bus providing inter-school transportation.

c) Cooperative Transportation

Revised In addition to regular rural transportation funding (above), **boards** that are transporting non-resident students who are **eligible passengers/eligible transported ECS children** (through a cooperative bussing arrangement) to a **school** of the **board**, or to another **school jurisdiction**, are eligible for the following funding incentive:

Revised Number of non-resident **eligible passengers/eligible transported ECS children** transported under a cooperative bussing arrangement **x** 50% of the transporting **board's** density rate

d) Bus Modification or Purchase Allowance to Accommodate Wheelchair Passengers

Refer to Section 1.21, Special Transportation

ALLOCATION CRITERIA

1. **Revised** 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. These students cannot be included as **eligible passengers** under the Rural Transportation formula, but are claimed under Section 1.20 Urban Transportation Funding.

Where a **board** of a **rural district** has under its jurisdiction a city, town, village or hamlet with a population of 10,000 or fewer and transports an **eligible passenger** or **eligible transported ECS child** residing within those boundaries to a **school** of a program listed under Allocation Criteria #3 of this section outside those boundaries, the **board** may receive funding for each **eligible passenger** and for each **eligible 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** decreases in excess of 3% as a result of a community population reaching 10,000, an adjustment will be determined for that jurisdiction based on the amount greater than 3% decrease.

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 based on the amount greater than 3%.

2. Rural Transportation 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 kilometers 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 the 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 a cooperative bussing arrangement 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**.
- Revised f) Rural transportation funding under this section is available only to **boards** operating student transportation systems. A **board** accessing transportation services for its **resident students** through a cooperative bussing arrangement is not eligible for rural transportation funding under this section.
- Revised 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) **Eligible passengers** with severe disabilities who ride on a regular route **school bus** will be claimed under this section using the density and distance formula and are not eligible for funding under Section 1.21, Special Transportation.
- Revised i) Buses may be designated only for the transportation of those **students and children with disabilities/delays** who, because of the severity of their disability/delay, are unable to ride on a regular route **school bus** may be claimed under this section using the **density** and **distance** formula or under Section 1.21, Special Transportation. (NOTE: all students on designated buses must be claimed under the same section.)
- j) Students in a wheelchair who ride a **school bus** will be funded at 8 times the regular rate.
3. ECS Transportation:
- k) A **school jurisdiction** that claims ECS Regular Transportation funding must transport, or make arrangements for the transport of **funded children** attending **ECS programs** at a service level that is consistent with the transportation of students under Section 51 (2) of the *School Act*.
- l) 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 Education.
- m) Each **eligible transported ECS child** transported will be counted as 1.0 weighted passenger in determining rural transportation funding support.
- n) 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 a **transportation agreement** with the other **board**, **private school**, or **private ECS operator**.

4. Inter-school Transportation:
- o) Inter-school transportation for students whose courses of study require a special **school** 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 (1);
 - the course of study requires a special **school** 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 **school** facility or equipment for at least 18 consecutive weeks.
- p) Off-Campus Education Programs, recreational 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 a **funded child** who is counted under the Special Transportation funding (Section 1.21).
6. Transportation support shall be paid based on the distance from the student's residence to the **school** in the attendance area or transportation service area in which the student resides.

If the student is directed by the **board** to attend another **school** for any of the following program considerations and the board at its discretion transports the student to that school, transportation support shall be paid based on the distance from the student's residence to the school to which the student was directed. The following is a list of program considerations:

- **Alternative French language programs** (including French immersion and bilingual programs) and **other language immersion programs**;
 - Special Education programs to meet the needs of **students with severe disabilities**;
 - Special Education programs to meet the need of students with mild to moderate disabilities when **board** criteria have been met;
 - 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. A **board's** resident students in an **Online program** or an **Outreach program** - where they are accessing 50% or more of their educational program at a **school** of the **board**- or students in a **Blended program**, that are transported by the **board** to a **school** of the **board**, may be claimed as **eligible passengers** under Rural Transportation.

DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Rural **school jurisdictions** are required to submit electronically a “RURAL CLAIM” to the Financial Reporting and Accountability Branch by November 30. Payment is made on the basis of the submitted information, the Rural Transportation Allocation Criteria and funding rates, and in accordance with the *School Act* and the *Student Transportation Regulation, A.R. 250/1998; amended A.R. 197/2000*.

Note that the 2007/2008 “RURAL CLAIM” includes the Rural Special Transportation section in the claim form; please refer to Section 1.21 Special Transportation for Rural Special Transportation Allocation Criteria and funding rates.

2. Transportation support payments for each new school year will be paid at 100% of the previous year’s funded monthly amount until the review of the new funding application has been completed. If the new funding application has not been received by December 31, the January payment will be reduced to 75% of the previous year funded monthly amount retroactive to September 1 and continued until the new funding application is received and reviewed.
3. Only funded students and funded children enrolled on the **count date** are eligible for funding. Special consideration for the **count date** may be given to **school jurisdictions** experiencing exceptional growth in transportation needs.
4. 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 the **count date** in a given year.
5. **School jurisdictions** are required to retain the following information on file for a minimum of seven years and make it available for review by Alberta Education upon request. Items a), b), c), and d) should be kept in an electronic file and made available to Alberta Education either electronically or on a computer disc.
 - a) electronic geographic roadway 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 all transportation;
 - (ii) **parents** providing transportation indicating the amount to be paid; and
 - (iii) agents providing special transportation for **students with disabilities**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. **First Nations students who reside on a reserve** shall not be counted as **eligible passengers**.
2. **School jurisdictions** may also qualify for Relative Cost of Purchasing Goods and Services Adjustment (RCPA) funding for transportation services. Please see details in Section 1.17.