
 <p><i>Student Transportation</i> Services of Thunder Bay</p>		Practice Document #: STS-ELG-001.09 Transportation Eligibility	
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Statement	<p>Starting with the 2023-2024 school year, student transportation funding for all school boards in Ontario bases eligibility on common reference standards for the distance between student primary addresses and designated schools. As of the 2024-2025 school year, STSTB will arrange transportation to and from the student’s primary address (one address, as designated by parent/family and must be a residential address or registered child care centre) to their designated school (school catchment area) that meets the distance condition set within the Ministry of Education funding allocation.</p>
Practice	<p>Effective for the 2024-2025 school year, students may access transportation services if their address is within the school’s attendance boundary and meet the following Ministry of Education minimum distance requirements for student transportation funding from their designated school:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K1/K2 over 0.8 km (800 meters)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gr. 1 to Gr. 8 over 1.6 km (1600 meters)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gr. 9 to Gr. 12 over 3.2 km (3200 meters)</p> <p>For requests for exceptions to eligibility please see STS-ELG-010 Courtesy Transportation and STS-GEN-025 Transportation Appeal Process</p> <p>Distance Measurements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All distances for transportation purposes are measured by the shortest walking route to school using STSTB’s Ministry of Education approved routing software system.

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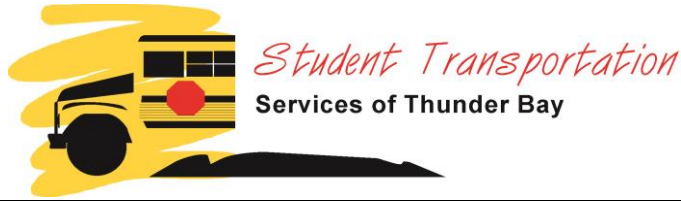
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distance is a measurement of the shortest walking path from the closest point of the property line of the student address to the closest property line of the school. <p>Eligibility Factors</p> <p>Note: Providing pedestrian facilities or services for walking, which includes road, sidewalk and walkway/pathway installation and maintenance, as well as the placement of Adult Crossing Guards, is the responsibility of the municipality.</p> <p>STSTB operates under the premise that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> parent/guardian of students who are not eligible for transportation are responsible for determining the route their children will take while travelling to/from school; routes are not considered unsafe because of dangers that may arise if a student is unaccompanied; parent/guardian determines if their child needs to be accompanied to/from school; and parent/guardian shares in the safety and responsibility of their children, from home to school or home to bus stop and vice-versa. <p>Criteria:</p> <p>There are factors which will be taken into consideration in assessing the home to school distance calculation. These factors will be used to establish the route which will be measured to determine transportation eligibility.</p> <p>STSTB uses the following criteria when measuring distance for eligibility determination.</p>
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1. Crossing a multi lane street at signals or crossing guards:

- a. Review existence of traffic signals, crossovers and crossing guards
- b. Review posted speed limits

Students are not expected to cross a multi-lane road of four (4) more lanes without the presence of either a municipal crossing guard, pedestrian crossover or traffic signals with a pedestrian crossing signal.

2. Crossing railway tracks

- Suitability of sidewalk/walkway/signals

Students are not expected to cross street level railway tracks that are not equipped with warning signals.

3. Suitability of sidewalk

- Proximity of traffic

On roads where posted speed limits are in excess of 50 km per hour, students are not expected to use sidewalks that do not have a grassed or paved strip separating the sidewalk from the road.


4. Residential streets without sidewalks

- Posted speed limit

Students are not expected to walk along roads without sidewalks if the posted speed limit is in excess of 50 km per hour.

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	<p>5. Walkways/Pathways</p> <p>Walkways and/or pathways will be used in determining the distance from home to school based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Municipal and Regional Conservation Authority approved pathways/walkways for which no restriction for pedestrian use has been established; b. the walkway is visible from a Municipal/Regional roadway or sidewalk; c. the walkway is visible from one end to the other; and d. the walkway/pathway consists of an engineered surface (i.e. paved, gravel/limestone screening). <p>Eligibility Other Than Distance</p> <p>In cases where a student does not meet the home-to-school distance threshold, the following conditions can be applied:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Student with Special Transportation Need (STN)</u> - identified by conditions such as the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. School board (e.g., through Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) or Individual Education Plan (IEP) process) ii. Approved documentation such as an application/request form and/or medical note indicating a medical condition requiring transportation. iii. Student is attending a designated specialized program <p>See STS-ELG-013 Specialized Transportation.</p>
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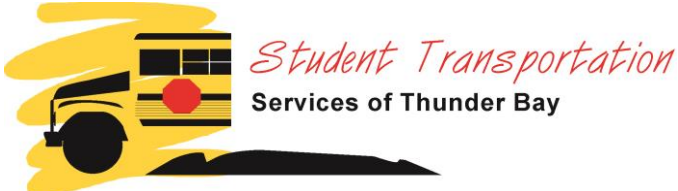
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	<p>b. <u>Hazard walking conditions</u> that may pose safety risks if students were to walk from home to school. These conditions include, but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-lane roads with higher speed limits and higher volumes of traffic, • Infrastructure (e.g., without controlled crossings (e.g., stop sign, traffic light, crosswalk, crossing guard) • Physical characteristics of the environment (e.g. body of water), • Railway crossings (e.g. not signaled), • Other safety factors identified by authorities. <p>The application of hazard conditions may reflect the age of students. See STS-SAF-006 Child Safety Zones (Hazardous Areas)</p> <p>The School must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inform the parent at time of registration of the eligibility criteria. At registration, ask if transportation is to be set up from primary address, sitter or day care. b. Inform STSTB via STSTB’s web-based software of a new, eligible student requesting transportation. c. Maintain accurate data in the school board’s Student Information System. <p>STSTB must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Verify the transportation address of each student, evaluate the eligibility between the transportation address and the
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	<p>school.</p> <p>b. Schedule the student to a bus stop location and on a bus route if eligible for transportation or inform the requesting school if the student does not meet the eligibility for transportation requirements.</p> <p>c. Send the student’s transportation information to the appropriate school bus operator and back to the requesting school via STSTB’s web-based software (see STS-GEN-002 Request for Transportation)</p> <p>d. Make available school vehicle transportation arrangements for students and their families through the controlled access ‘Parent Portal’ found on the consortium public website.</p>
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