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Statement	Upon request, STSTB provides transportation between a student's designated transportation address, as provided by a parent/guardian, which must be a residential address or registered childcare centre, and the school assigned to that address within the appropriate catchment area. Transportation is offered only when the student meets the established distance eligibility requirements and other common reference standards outlined in the Ministry of Education's Student Transportation Funding guidelines.								
Practice	Students may access transportation services if their designated transportation address lies within the school's attendance boundary and meets the Ministry of Education's minimum distance requirements for student transportation funding: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade Level</th><th>Minimum Distance From Zoned School</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>K1 / K2</td><td>Over 0.8 km (800 m)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grades 1–8</td><td>Over 1.6 km (1,600 m)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grades 9–12</td><td>Over 3.2 km (3,200 m)</td></tr> </tbody> </table> For requests related to exceptions to eligibility, refer to: • STS-ELG-010 Courtesy Transportation • STS-GEN-025 Transportation Appeal Process Distance Measurement: • All distance calculations are based on the shortest walking route using STSTB's Ministry-approved routing software. • Distances are measured from the closest point of the student's property line to the closest point of the school	Grade Level	Minimum Distance From Zoned School	K1 / K2	Over 0.8 km (800 m)	Grades 1–8	Over 1.6 km (1,600 m)	Grades 9–12	Over 3.2 km (3,200 m)
Grade Level	Minimum Distance From Zoned School								
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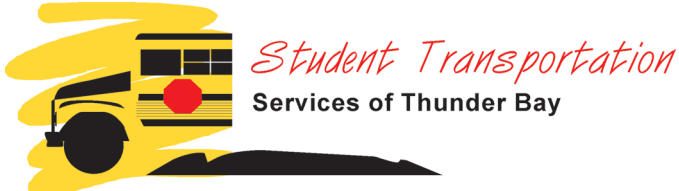
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 <i>Student Transportation</i> Services of Thunder Bay		Practice Document #: STS-ELG-001.10 Transportation Eligibility	
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	property line. Eligibility Considerations Note: Municipalities are responsible for the provision and maintenance of pedestrian infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, pathways, crossing guards, pedestrian crossovers, and other traffic control devices. STSTB operates under the following assumptions: a. Parents/guardians of students not eligible for transportation are responsible for determining their child’s route to and from school. b. A walking route is not deemed unsafe solely because a student may walk unaccompanied. c. Parents/guardians determine whether their child requires accompaniment. d. Parents/guardians share responsibility for their child’s safety from home to school or to the bus stop and back. Criteria for Walking Distance Assessment The following factors are used to determine the walking route used for eligibility measurement: 1. Crossing Multi-Lane Streets • Review availability of crossing guards, pedestrian crossovers, and traffic signals. • Review posted speed limits. • Expectation: Students are not required to cross a
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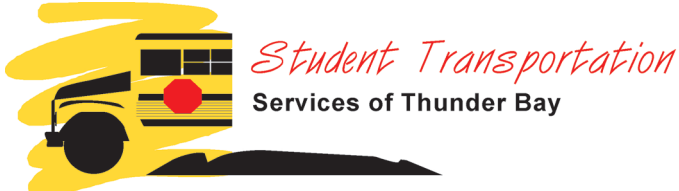
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	multi-lane road (4+ lanes) unless a municipal crossing guard, pedestrian crossover, or signalized pedestrian crossing is present. 2. Railway Crossings - Assess presence and suitability of sidewalks, walkways, and warning signals. - Expectation: Students are not required to cross at-grade railway tracks that lack warning signals. 3. Sidewalk Suitability - Consider traffic proximity. - Expectation: Students are not required to use sidewalks directly adjacent to roads posted over 50 km/h without a buffer (grassed or paved separation). 4. Residential Streets Without Sidewalks - Consider posted speed limits. - Expectation: Students are not required to walk along roads without sidewalks where the speed limit exceeds 50 km/h. 5. Walkways/Pathways Walkways/pathways may be used in distance calculations when: - They are approved for public use by municipal or regional authorities. - The walkway is visible from a roadway or sidewalk. - The entire length of the walkway is visible end-to-end. - The walkway has an engineered surface (e.g., pavement, gravel, limestone screenings).
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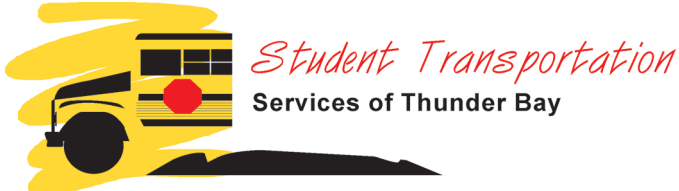
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	Eligibility Beyond Distance Students who do not meet the minimum distance requirement may still qualify for transportation under the following conditions: a. <u>Special Transportation Needs (STN)</u> A student may qualify when: • Identified by the school board through IPRC, IEP, or equivalent processes. • Supported by approved documentation (e.g., request form, medical note indicating a transportation-related medical condition) kept on file at the school. • Enrolled in a designated special needs program. Refer to STS-ELG-013 Specialized Transportation. b. <u>Hazardous Walking Conditions</u> Conditions that may deem a walking route unsafe include, but are not limited to: • Multi-lane roads with high traffic volume and higher speed limits. • Missing or inadequate controlled crossings (e.g., no stop sign, traffic light, crosswalk, crossing guard). • Environmental hazards (e.g., bodies of water). • Unsafely equipped railway crossings (e.g., no warning signals). • Other safety risks identified by appropriate authorities. Hazard application may consider student age. Refer to STS-SAF-006 Child Safety Zones (Hazardous Areas).
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	Roles and Responsibilities Schools Must: - Inform parents/guardians of transportation eligibility criteria during registration. Ask whether transportation is required from the primary address, sitter, or daycare. - Notify STSTB of any new, eligible student requesting transportation via STSTB’s web-based software. - Maintain accurate student address and contact information within the school board’s Student Information System. STSTB must: - Verify each student’s transportation address and assess eligibility to the zoned school. - Assign eligible students to a bus stop and route or notify the school if the student is not eligible. - Send transportation information to the school bus operator and the school via STSTB’s web-based software (see STS-GEN-002 Request for Transportation). - Provide families with access to transportation arrangements via the secure Parent Portal on the STSTB public website.
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