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<p>Statement</p>	<p>The <i>Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E2 s. 190</i> permits a School Board to provide transportation to students but does not oblige it to do so. Transportation is a privilege extended to qualifying day school registered students by a Board in accordance with WESTS policies.</p> <p>Windsor and Essex County student transportation is administered through the Service de transports des élèves-Windsor-Essex Student Transportation Services (WESTS).</p> <p>WESTS is a separate non-profit legal entity governed by a Board of Directors with representation from the four-member boards. Member boards (the Greater Essex County District School Board, the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire catholique Providence and le Conseil scolaire Viamonde) are each represented by their Superintendent of Business or designate. WESTS administers the transportation policies, approved by the Board of Directors, on a fair and equitable basis for all schools and students within the jurisdiction of its operation.</p> <p>WESTS provides transportation services to eligible students attending their Designated Schools based on the eligibility criteria as determined by the WESTS Board of Directors and the applicable School Board policies.</p>
<p>Primary Home Address</p>	<p>Definition: The Primary Home Address is the student’s home address as supplied by the parent/guardian to the school. The Primary Home Address will determine the student’s designated school for purposes of eligibility for transportation. In the case of joint custody, it is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to advise the school of the Primary Home Address. WESTS will only accept the Primary Home Address identified by the school.</p>



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	A daycare, in-home caregiver or parent/guardian’s place of employment is not a valid Primary Home Address.
Alternate Address	Transportation will be provided to eligible students to an Alternate Address such as a daycare provider or caregiver under the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Alternate Address is not a place of business or parent/guardian’s place of employment. 2. The Alternate Address is eligible for transportation based on the eligibility criteria
Designated School	Each board will determine the Designated School for students based on the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The student’s Primary Home Address 2. The program of study 3. The applicable School Board Policy Students not attending their Designated School are considered “Out of Boundary” and are not eligible for transportation.
Calculation of Distance from Home to School	WESTS utilizes specialized software that measures the distance between the student’s Primary Home Address and the school property based on approved distances set by the WESTS Board of Directors. The distance is calculated utilizing the road network and the shortest walking path as calculated by the BusPlanner specialized transportation software. WESTS is solely responsible for the calculation of distance.
Home to School Transportation	<p><u>Eligibility Criteria</u></p> WESTS will provide transportation to eligible students who are attending their Board Designated School and whose Primary Home or Alternate Address is in excess of the following distances from their Designated School, as per the above Calculation of Distance: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1.0 km for JK/SK students 2. 1.6 kms for Grade 1 to 8 students 3. 3.2 kms for Secondary students as per the eligibility determination on the www.buskids.ca website. Students residing on Bobo Island will have their home to school distance calculated from the mainland dock



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	<p>to the Designated School. The distances set out in paragraphs 1., 2. and 3. will apply.</p> <p><u>Bus Stop Locations</u> WESTS utilizes community bus stop locations that are accessible to a number of students.</p> <p>Students will be required to access their school bus transportation at a bus stop located up to the following distances from their Primary Home Address or Alternate Address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 1.0 km for Elementary Students2. 2.0 kms for Secondary Students <p>Distance is calculated from the Primary Home Address or Alternate Address property to the bus stop location by WESTS using the BusPlanner transportation software.</p> <p>A Home bus stop will only be utilized when WESTS determines that the community bus stop is not safe or practical in accordance with Policy SD-08 Bus Stop Development.</p> <p>There may be road access issues, temporary construction or road impediments that result in longer walking distances to bus stops as per Policy SD-01 Walk Distance to Bus Stop.</p> <p><u>Designates – Kindergarten Students</u> WESTS is responsible for student safety while the students are on the school bus. It is the parents/guardian’s responsibility to ensure the safety of students on route to and from the pick-up bus stop, while waiting for the school bus to arrive at the bus stop, while boarding and disembarking from the school bus, and after disembarking the school bus at the drop-off bus stop to home. Junior and senior kindergarten pupils must be met at</p>
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	<p>the bus stop by a parent/guardian or designate. The designate may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sibling no younger than 10 years of age; OR b) Another person no younger than 12 years of age. <p>The parent/guardian is required to identify designates on the Transportation Form. A maximum of four (4) designates will be accepted with the parents/guardians counting as one (1) designate.</p>
Consistency of Transportation	<p>Eligible students requesting transportation must ride the assigned bus on a consistent basis, week to week. Transportation will only be approved for three (3) or more school days a week. Use of the bus consistently for three (3) or more days in either the am or the pm will be considered consistent use. Transportation for less than three (3) school days does not constitute consistent transportation within the meaning of this policy. If a student does not use transportation consistently as per this policy they will be removed from transportation until such time as they meet the requirements for consistent transportation.</p>
Other Transportation Issues	<p>WESTS will endeavor to transport students within a reasonable time, taking into account the distance from pick up point to school and the number of stops required for efficient service delivery.</p> <p>Elementary and secondary students registered with other district school boards may be transported on the same vehicle.</p> <p>Transportation is provided from home to school and school to home. Trips to accommodate student or parents/guardians work or personal schedules will not be considered. The drop off will be the Primary Home Address or Alternate Address. WESTS does not consider a place of business a Primary Home Address or Alternate Address.</p>



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	<p>Students attending a Childcare Centre that is outside the Designated School Boundary will not be eligible for transportation unless there are no approved Childcare Centers or childcare spaces in the Designated School Boundary and such Childcare Centre has been approved by WESTS.</p> <p>WESTS does not provide additional trips for students who must leave school early.</p>
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Referenced Policies:

SD-08 Bus Stop Development

SD-02 Walk Distance to Bus Stop