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<b>Statement</b>	<p>Notwithstanding that WESTS accepts only one address to determine eligibility for each student, WESTS recognizes students with joint or shared custodial arrangements may require special consideration regarding their transportation needs and will endeavour to accommodate joint and shared custody arrangements in accordance with this policy.</p>
<b>Conditions</b>	<p>A Joint Custody Application Form must be completed and submitted by the school, together with any required supporting documentation. The school will forward the Joint Custody Application Form to WESTS on BusPlanner Workflow. WESTS is responsible for making the decision in respect of the Application.</p> <p>In considering Joint Custody Applications, WESTS' overriding priority will be the safety of the student. WESTS retains the right to make the ultimate decision in this regard.</p> <p><u>General Eligibility Criteria – Elementary and Secondary Students</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Primary Home Address is within the eligible school boundary.</li> <li>• The Secondary Home Address is within the largest school boundary of a school that has more than one boundary (example: where there are separate English and French Immersion boundaries for that specific school).</li> <li>• Availability of existing route.</li> </ul> <p><u>Elementary Students – Additional Eligibility Criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent Schedule – There must be consistent arrangements in respect of the custody schedule (i.e. the schedule is consistent from week to week) and the arrangements must be agreed upon by both parents/legal guardians.</li> <li>• Capacity and maturity – the student(s) must have the capacity and maturity to independently follow the custody arrangement, including getting on the correct bus at their school.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">In making a determination regarding capacity</p>



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	<p>and maturity, WESTS will give consideration to the student(s) age, maturity and other relevant factors as determined by WESTS, in conjunction with the School Principal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Safety Considerations – Such other safety considerations as may apply, as determined by WESTS.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transportation Plan</u> – A Transportation Plan will be required for all students under the age of 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/legal guardian participation in the development of a Transportation Plan that is implemented to facilitate the joint custody arrangement is mandatory.</li> <li>• Transportation Plans may be granted on a trial basis and may be subject to review at the discretion of WESTS should safety or other concerns arise.</li> </ul> <p><u>Secondary Students – Additional Eligibility Criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity – the student(s) must have the capacity to independently follow the custody arrangement, including getting on the correct bus at their school.          In making a determination regarding capacity, WESTS will give consideration to the student(s) age, maturity and any other relevant factors as determined by WESTS.</li> <li>• Other Safety Considerations – Such other safety considerations as may apply, as determined by WESTS.</li> </ul> <p><u>Students with special education needs:</u>          Joint Custody Applications for students with special education needs shall be considered by WESTS in conjunction with the school board and special education department.</p> <p><u>General</u>          WESTS determination in respect of Joint Custody Applications will be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided by the parent/guardian</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided by the school in respect of the student’s capacity and maturity; and</li> <li>• WESTS’ staff’s experience and professional judgement, including in respect of safety.</li> </ul> <p>WESTS will consider all applications submitted considering the factors above and the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>The parent/legal guardian is responsible for providing up-to-date information in respect of the custody arrangements to the School, including any information regarding changes impacting the student(s) transportation services.</p> <p>The parent/legal guardian recognizes and accepts that there is risk inherent in the implementation of student transportation to two addresses. The bus driver is not responsible for managing alternating schedules for students. Boarding assistance at the School will not be provided by school staff for students over 10 years old.</p> <p>All other transportation policies continue to apply, including all other policies related to other elements of student eligibility for student transportation services.</p>
<b>Procedure</b>	<p>Since transportation is provided to a student based on a Eligible Primary Home Address, the Eligible Secondary Home Address, under the joint custody arrangement, will be the address used for consideration of joint custody.</p> <p>The school will submit the Joint Custody Application Form through BusPlanner Workflow.</p> <p>If the student(s) is under the age of 10, the school will give the Elementary (under age of 10) Joint Custody Transportation Form to the parent/legal guardian. Both parent/legal guardian will complete and sign the Elementary (under the age of 10) Joint Custody Transportation Form and submit it to the school. The school sends the completed and signed forms to WESTS for review and final decision.</p>



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	<p>Approval of a Joint Custody Application will remain in effect so long as the student remains at the school and so long as the joint custody arrangements remain the same as set out in the Application, subject to any generally applicable changes that may be made in respect of school boundaries and subject to any safety issues that may arise, including in respect of the implementation of any Transportation Plan.</p> <p>A new Joint Custody Application form may be required if circumstances change, including if the student moves to a different elementary or secondary school, starts a secondary school, if there is a change in custodial arrangements, or if there are concerns raised about the implementation or effectiveness of the Transportation Plan.</p>
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