



### **Who qualifies for free yellow school bus transportation?**

- Students who attend their designated community school for a Regular Program, reside more than 2.4 km from the school and are assigned to a yellow school bus.
- Students requiring Complex Learning Needs transportation.
- Students in other Programs and Special Settings.

### **Who pays yellow school bus transportation fees?**

- The majority of students in an Alternative Program.
- Elementary students who live more than 1.6 km but less than 2.4 km from their designated community school and are assigned to a yellow school bus.
- Middle/junior high students who live more than 1.8 km but less than 2.4 km from their designated community school and are assigned to a yellow school bus.
- Any student not attending their designated Regular Program school.
- Conditional Riders.

### **What is the yellow school bus fee for 2017-18?**

Yellow school bus riders not eligible for free transportation will be charged \$335. This is the same fee as 2016-17.

### **Who qualifies for a rebate on monthly Calgary Transit Passes?**

- Grade 6-12 students who attend their designated community school for a Regular Program, reside more than 2.4 km from the school and are assigned to Calgary Transit will pay \$151/year after a CBE rebate.

### **Who pays the full cost of monthly Calgary Transit Passes?**

- High school students on Calgary Transit who live less than 2.4 km from their designated community school.
- Grade 6-12 students attending an Alternative Program or a Program of Choice and assigned to Calgary Transit.
- Note| Programs of Choice for high school students include International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement and high level Career and Technology courses. Students attending these programs at a school other than their designated high school are not eligible for a Calgary Transit rebate.

### **What if I am attending an Alternative Program or a Program of Choice that is offered at my designated community school?**

Students attending an Alternative Program or a Program of Choice located at their designated community school (known as a dual track school) also qualify for free yellow school bus service or a rebate on monthly Calgary Transit passes.

### **If I qualify for free transportation, why do I have to pay extra for my Calgary Transit pass?**

A Calgary Transit pass has additional benefits that allow you to access bus and CTrain service after school hours, holidays and on the weekends.

**Do I have to purchase my own Calgary Transit pass?**

Yes, families will need to purchase monthly passes for their students.

**How much will CBE rebate eligible Calgary Transit riders?**

The government provides \$549/eligible student to the CBE for transportation. The rebate program will refund up to that amount for monthly passes purchased by families.

\$70 monthly pass X 10 months = \$700

\$700 - \$549 transportation funding rebate = \$151

More information and details about the CBE rebate program will be available before the end of June.

**What if I can't afford to purchase a monthly pass?**

As part of the CBE's 2017-18 waiver process families will need to apply for the City of Calgary's Fair Entry Program. This program offers a streamlined application process for City subsidy programs, including reduced rates for transit passes. You can find more information about the program at [www.calgary.ca/fairentry](http://www.calgary.ca/fairentry).

More detailed information about Calgary Transit waivers will be available before the end of the school year.

**How can I get a CBE rebate on my Calgary Transit pass?**

More information about the CBE rebate program will be provided before the end of the school year.

**How do I know how far I live from my designated regular program school?**

Updated maps marked with the attendance area and transportation eligibility boundaries will be posted on the school profile page by May 23, 2017. If you have questions, please contact your school.

**How is the distance from my house to my designated school calculated?**

The CBE calculates these distances according to the *School Act* Section 51(4). We measure the distance from the edge of the student's home property (or in the case of a housing complex the edge of the complex) to across the street from the school site.

Measurement is done by our route planning software. We do not use estimations provided by Google Maps, odometers or other distance tracking devices.

**What is a congregated stop?**

Congregated stops are used when a small number of students from multiple communities congregate or gather at one stop to take a bus to their chosen school. At the CBE, a congregated stop model is for students attending alternative programs and accessing yellow school bus transportation.

When choosing a congregated stop location – we look at a number of factors include student safety, ease of access for the bus, public space for students to gather and available parking for parents. Stops are located along collector residential roads and are located centrally within the community to minimize changes year to year.

For students attending some alternative programs (particularly where there is only one site in the city), stops may not necessarily be within walking distance. These stops are a gathering point for students in nearby communities where the number of riders are very low. Given the distance to a stop for some programs, families may make alternate arrangements to get to the stop or school.

**Will there be significant changes to ride-times?**

No, we anticipate the majority of our routes will stay the same. We try to keep the maximum route length at 60 minutes. The average route is approximately 30 minutes. Some students, particularly those in single site programs, may experience ride times beyond the maximum.

**When will routes be posted?**

Routes will be posted on the CBE website at [www.cbe.ab.ca/busstop](http://www.cbe.ab.ca/busstop) by August 10 for modified calendar schools and August 30 for traditional calendar schools. The routes will be posted for all schools at the same time.

**What if I have concerns or want to appeal my bus stop or route?**

No route changes will be made before mid-October.

If the request for a stop review change meets the review criteria, submit a Bus Stop Change Request form, available at [cbe.ab.ca/transportation](http://cbe.ab.ca/transportation). Email or written responses from the CBE transportation department are made within six to eight weeks for requests made August to October and within two to four weeks all other times.

**Why is my bus stop further than the CBE guidelines?**

For students attending an alternative program and assigned to a yellow school bus you are now accessing a yellow school bus stop within a congregated stop model. Congregated stops are located beyond the existing guidelines.

If you did not pre-register by the June deadline your address was not considered when building the route. Changes will not be made until mid-October.

**Additional Questions From May 24 – May 31, 2017 Information Sessions**

**Has the CBE considered giving the schools more autonomy with transportation?**

In order to gain the needed efficiencies in the CBE transportation budget, decisions regarding transportation and bell times must be made centrally. A decentralized model would be less efficient and would result in fewer dollars being directed to the classroom.

**Why is my travel time on the bus and number of transfers greater than the CBE guidelines?**

The majority of CBE students have a travel time on the bus of less than 60 minutes with not more than one transfer. However, that is not possible for all students. Some students have a longer travel time and more than one transfer depending on a variety of factors including distance from home to school.



**Please clarify the distance to congregated stops for alternative program elementary school students.**

There is no defined distance for congregated stops. When choosing a congregated stop location – we look at a number of factors include student safety, ease of access for the bus, public space for students to gather and available parking for parents. Stops are located along collector residential roads and are located centrally within the community to minimize changes year to year.

For students attending some alternative programs (particularly where there is only one site in the city), stops may not necessarily be within walking distance. These stops are a gathering point for students in nearby communities where the number of riders is very low. Given the distance to a stop for some programs, families may make alternate arrangements to get to the stop or school.

**Will the CBE relocate alternative programs to the centre of the catchment areas designated to the various schools?**

Sites for alternative programs are chosen considering a variety of factors. The catchment areas are then determined to ensure that families are attending the program location that is closest to their home.

**I would happily pay more for a different service/no change in bell times. Why can't this option be considered?**

Under Bill 1, fees are expected to be maintained, reduced or eliminated. Fee increases cannot be considered.

**Why do parents with students in alternative programs have to pay for transportation and parents of students in regular programs do not?**

This is explained in the [Bill 1 FAQ \(questions 4, 6 and 10\)](#).

**Why is the CBE changing bell times and which schools are partnered together on bus routes?**

The CBE pays service providers for a block of time (90 minutes per shift). By aligning bell times, we are able to have buses complete 2 or 3 routes. There needs to be sufficient time between bell times for the bus to travel between a previous run's end point, and a subsequent run's starting point as well as complete the subsequent run. Double or triple routing reduces the overall cost of busing because fewer buses are required.

**Why aren't costs spread across all families rather than just families who use transportation?**

The province of Alberta's School Act states that any fees or costs a parent is charged by a board may only be used for the purposes for which they are collected. This means that we cannot charge a fee for a service to people who do not use that service.

**Has full-day kindergarten been examined (i.e. two days one week and three days the next)?**

The CBE currently operates half-day kindergarten programs throughout our schools. There would be significant resource implications in moving to this type of model, which would take time to explore. The CBE does not have any immediate plans to move to this type of kindergarten program model.