



**How will your budget compensate if people leave alternative programs and attend designated schools? Where will that funding come from?**

Under Bill 1, the CBE receives funding from Alberta Education to provide free transportation to the following students:

- 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 special settings (these are different from alternative programs)

The CBE does not receive funding for transportation for the majority of students in alternative programs.

[Read Bill 1 FAQ to learn more.](#)

**What happens if we all switch back to designated schools? Will there be capacity? What happens if there isn't capacity?**

Details about individual school capacities are still being determined. More information will be shared soon.

**Why aren't other schools and school boards affected in the same way as CBE?**

Bill 1 legislation applies only to public school boards, separate school boards and Francophone school boards. It does not apply to charter or private schools.

Each school board/district has its own way of delivering services. There are significant differences depending on the size of the school district, rural or urban setting, existing transportation fees and more.

The Calgary Board of Education did consider the input and feedback gathered from students, parents, staff and community members in its 2016 Transportation Engagement in making decisions for 2017-18. We also considered findings of an [independent audit of our transportation services](#) and other relevant factors related to achieving financial sustainability of transportation services.

**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.

**What will happen if many students in alternative programs move back to their designated school? Will you try changing them or merging them with other programs?**

It is too early to know what decisions families will make as a result of the changes proposed for the 2017-18 school year. Once enrolment numbers are confirmed at the end of September, we will review and evaluate enrolment in our schools and programs to determine if any adjustments are needed. This is done on an annual basis at the CBE.

**How has the CBE been informing the Alberta Government of its communications with parents about these changes (including information sessions)?**

The CBE has been in ongoing discussions with Alberta Education about decisions for the 2017-18 school year regarding transportation, fees and bell times. The government is aware of our decisions and many of the ways we are communicating with families.

**I want to know more about the transportation budget to be sure we are maximizing our dollars. How can I learn more about this?**

During the 2015-16 school year, an independent audit of CBE transportation services was conducted. It examined ways to make ensure transportation could be delivered in an efficient and sustainable way. [The results of this review](#) were posted on the CBE website in the spring of 2016.

The 2017-18 transportation budget information will be posted on our website on June 9, 2017 on the [Board of Trustees Board Meetings page](#).

**Can we collectively come up with options?**

Talk with your school council about ways your community can work together to implement these changes.

**How can parents get involved to make requests to government for more funding?**

If parents would like to contact the Government of Alberta about funding, they should contact their MLA.

**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.

**What is the process if I decide to move my child from an Alternative Program or Program of Choice to a Regular Program at their designated community school?**

To assist with planning for the next school year, parents are encouraged to submit a [Transfer Request Form](#) to their designated community school by June 20, 2017. Note that the Transfer Request Form must be signed by the principal or assistant principal of the student's current school. Schools will confirm a student's placement by June 30, 2017.

**Why can't the CBE make cuts in other areas to cover costs of yellow school bus to alternative programs?**

Transportation funding is received separately from other funding and is based on the government's definition of eligible students ([see Bill 1 FAQ](#)), Alberta Education's funding formula for metro school boards and other factors identified by government. Funding for transportation must only be used for providing transportation. At the CBE, every dollar received from the province for transportation services is used to provide transportation services.

During the extensive transportation engagement in 2015-16, parents, students and staff told us that they did not want the CBE using funding intended to support student learning spent on transportation.

The Government of Alberta allows metro school boards like the CBE to spend up to 3.6 per cent of its total expenditures on board and system administration. At 2.7 per cent, the CBE has one of the lowest percentages of administrative expenses of metro school boards. If further tightening of these expenditures were possible, cuts in this area would be allocated to student learning rather than transportation.