



Changes to Transportation, Fees and School Start and End Times

Information Sessions

North Calgary:

May 24, 2017 at Queen Elizabeth High School

South Calgary:

May 25, 2017 at Dr. E.P. Scarlett High School

Purpose and Format of Session

- Purpose of Session
 - Bring the CBE community together to understand changes to CBE transportation services and fees, including school start and end times, for the 2017-18 school year, and as part of the long-term transportation strategy.
- Format of Session
 - Opening presentation
 - Topic specific Q&A sessions

Agenda

- Facilitator introduction and role
- Purpose and format of session
- Operating values
- Welcome and introductions
- Transportation service levels and fees
- School start and end times
- Early dismissal days
- Topic specific Q&A sessions

Operating Values

- We minimize distractions
- We balance air time fairly
- We speak one at a time
- We listen to understand before we speak
- We can disagree respectfully
- We can change our mind

Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome
- Introductions

Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees

- Government is providing additional funding to help reduce fees.
- **In 2017-18 this means:**
 - Transportation fees for students in K-GR12 who live 2.4 km or more from their designated (regular program school).
 - Students with special needs attending specialized or unique settings will not be charged for transportation.
 - Instructional Supplies and Materials fee for students in K-GR12 will be eliminated
- **Government considering more changes to fees in 2018-19.**

What we know

- We continue to advance our long term transportation strategy
 - Ensuring students come first
 - Balancing service levels and fees
 - Closing the financial gap
- We are committed to financially sustainable transportation. This means eliminating the subsidy from our operating budget.
- We are supportive of Bill 1 and making life more affordable for families.

Overview Transportation Engagement

The purpose was to work directly with parents, students, staff and other stakeholders to ensure a safe, reliable and cost-efficient service.

Input was gathered January - June 2016 through the following opportunities:

- 300+ participants in 18 in-person workshops March 15 and April 6, 7 and 12
- 1,600 responses to online survey open April 6 – 17
- 41 participants in two community forums May 3 and 4
- 1,750+ responses to online scenario survey open April 29 – May 8

What parents told us

In the 2016 Transportation Engagement, parents said they wanted us to:

- Minimize travel distance to the bus stop for younger students
- Keep fee increases modest
- Recognize that mid-day kindergarten service is highly valued
- Avoid using funds allocated for student learning on transportation
- Explore a fuller partnership with Calgary Transit
- Communicate service levels and stop locations as soon as possible

Our long term transportation strategy

In our June 22, 2016 parent letter, our next steps were to:

- Increase number of students using Calgary Transit or congregated stops where feasible.
- Explore a fuller partnership with Calgary Transit.
- Work with families to reduce low ridership routes (10 students or less).
- Continue working with an advisory committee (internal and external members) in developing a long-term strategy.
- Explore ways to get route information to parents earlier in the school year.
- Develop clear and objective criteria to differentiate transportation service levels other than by program choice.

Service Level and Fees

Students	Service Level	Fee
Regular Program (K – GR12 Yellow School Bus)	Work within current guidelines: 1.6, 1.8 & 2.4km <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Most students will be less than 1000 m	> 2.4 km = \$0 < 2.4 km = \$335 Out of boundary = \$335

*** Subject to government approval**

Service Level and Fees

Students	Service Level	Fee
Alternative Program (K-GR12)	Yellow school bus riders move to congregated stop model <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Most students in larger alternative programs will have a stop less than 1000 m	Yellow school bus = \$335
	5 middle/junior high schools will move to Calgary Transit	Calgary Transit = \$700

*** subject to government approval**

Service Level and Fees

Students	Service Level	Fee
Calgary Transit (GR 6-12)	Access existing Calgary Transit stop Additional students will be transitioned from yellow school bus service to Calgary Transit	Eligible = \$151 (after CBE rebate) Non-eligible = \$700

*** subject to government approval**

Becoming financially sustainable

Factor	Savings
Bell time changes	\$3.5M
Congregated Stops/Low Ridership	\$2.0M
Move more students to Calgary Transit	\$1.7M
Routing efficiencies (partnering)	\$0.9M
Accommodation changes (impacted schools and phase in/out)	\$2.2M
Fewer riders to waive (yellow)	\$0.5M
Total	\$10.8M

*** Factors are interrelated. Changes to one factor will affect savings related to other factors.**

Changes to Bell Times

- A system wide change to align bell times is required
- About 50% of schools have already aligned their bell times to transportation
- More alignment and changes are required to allow buses to run 2-3 routes
- Savings from these alignments is significant
- We know this decision will impact families

What we heard about bell times

Factor:	Respondents Say:
Service Levels and Fees	The majority (two-thirds) support a fee increase if that would be required in order to maintain or increase service levels.
User Fees and Programs	Respondents were split as to whether fees should be different or the same regardless of program.
Taking Transit	Most (six in ten) feel that by Grade 9, it would be appropriate for students to take Calgary Transit to school; Support is nearly universal (nine in ten) by Grade 10
Bell Times	Many (six in ten) are open to changing their schedules by half an hour or less if adjusted bell times would help to reduce transportation costs, with only a handful indicating they are not willing to change. However, if asked to change their routines by up to an hour, opposition outweighs willingness to change.
Walking Distance to Bus Stop	More than half feel that the current maximum distance to the bus stop is appropriate (or could be expanded) for those in middle/junior and senior high (1.8 km and 2.4 km, respectively). However, when asked about the current 1.6 km walking distance for elementary students, a small majority feels this is too far.
Bus Ride Times	While most feel that half an hour one-way on a bus for elementary students is long enough, many feel that for older students, up to 45 minutes would be appropriate.
Number and Location of Bus Stops	In a case of a trade-off, a majority (six in ten) would prefer shorter walking distance to the bus stop even if it means a longer ride to and from school.

Changes to Bell Times

- 217 schools (90%) have bell times linked to transportation.
- To achieve the savings necessary, it means the following adjustments to bell times. Max changes to at least one bell time:
 - 99 schools: no change
 - 46 schools: 1-15 min
 - 58 schools: 16-30 min
 - 14 schools are impacted by > 30min. These schools will be notified now but implementation in 2018-19
- Special education programs will need to align with school's regular program hours.

Early Dismissal

- To maximize savings, early dismissals also need to be aligned.
- The majority (approx. 75%) of CBE schools already have an early dismissal day one day a week.
- More schools will be moving toward early dismissals in the future.

Implications of Early Dismissal

- Start and dismissal times and early dismissal days are directly connected to transportation services
- Schools are required to meet instructional hours mandated by the Province of Alberta's School Act
- Assignable time requirements for teachers and dictated by Collective Agreements and must be upheld
- Other break times may need to be adjusted to maintain instructional and assignable time requirements. Your principal will communicate these changes by May 30.

Important Dates to Remember

- **June 5** – transportation pre-registration deadline (required to complete to have transportation for September 2017).
- **August 10** – modified calendar school routes posted.
- **August 30** – traditional calendar school routes posted.

Q&A Sessions - Topics

Three topic specific sessions:

1. Fees / Calgary Transit rebates / Waivers
 - Location: Learning Commons
2. School start and end times / Early dismissal days
 - Location: Student Gathering Area
3. Transportation services
 - Location: Main Gym

Q&A Sessions - Instructions

1. Choose the topic you want more information on / have the most questions about. Move to that group.
2. Think about and write down your key questions on the post-it notes provided.
 - To start, we are looking for questions you think many parents will have.
 - One question per post-it – use as many as you need!
3. The facilitator will work to group similar questions together, and we will start by addressing the most common questions.
4. Have your question(s) been addressed? Feel free to move to a different group, or head home.

Contact Us

Additional questions can be sent to:

dialogue@cbe.ab.ca



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