



Myth: All students will receive free transportation for the 2017-18 school year

Fact: Alberta Education has communicated that transportation fees will be reduced or eliminated for 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.

The Government has said in their [FAQ document](#): if a student does not qualify based on the above criteria—for example, if they reside less than 2.4 kilometres from their school, or they attend a school or program of choice—a school board is not obligated to provide a rebate or refund for municipal transit.

For the 2017-18 school year CBE students residing more than 2.4 km from their designated Regular Program school will not pay for yellow school bus service. Grade 6-9 students residing more than 2.4 km from their designated school and assigned to Calgary Transit will pay \$151/year (after CBE rebate).

Myth: I am attending my designated school because it is the school my child has been designated to for my Alternative Program by the CBE

Fact: The [FAQ document](#) from Alberta Education provides this explanation of a designated school:

- All students have a designated school that is determined by the attendance area set by the resident school board.
 - Designated schools offer regular programming and are not schools of choice (alternative program).
 - Designated schools are usually, but not always, the closest school that offers regular programming to the residence of the student.
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Myth: My Alternative Program is not a “Program of Choice”

Fact: Again, Alberta Education has provided an explanation of their definition of a program of choice in their [FAQ document](#):

- Schools or programs of choice are schools that are chosen because of a particular program being offered. Some examples include, language or cultural immersion programs, sports or club academies, faith-based schools (offered by a non-Catholic jurisdiction), art or science schools, traditional learning centres, international baccalaureate programs and alternative programs.

Myth: The CBE is only providing yellow school bus service for students who live more than 2.4 km from school

Fact: Yellow school bus service will continue to be provided within our current travel distance guidelines. The majority of students will receive the same level of service at the same or reduced fee.

Elementary students who live more than 1.6 km but less than 2.4 km from their school and middle/junior high school students who live more than 1.8 km but less than 2.4 km from their school are still eligible for transportation. These students will be charged \$335/year for yellow school bus transportation regardless of the program they are attending.

Myth: My school knows that my children take the yellow school bus to school so I don't have to register until September

Fact: The CBE Transportation department will be rebuilding all yellow school bus routes over the summer months. Only addresses received during the pre-registration period will be used to build the routes. Route updates for kindergarten stops and Regular Program routes will be made after Thanksgiving with late registrations. We don't expect to make changes to routes with congregated stops.

Myth: My bus stop has been in the same locations for the past few years, it will be in the same place as it was last year

Fact: Routes are changed and updated annually based on the pre-registrations that we receive.

For the 2017-18 school year Alternative Language Programs will also move to a congregated stop model of transportation. Students attending a program at a single site will most likely have a bus stop beyond the travel distance guideline. We anticipate the majority of students in larger alternative language programs (French Immersion, Spanish Bilingual and TLC) may have a stop within 1 km from home because of the higher density of student population within a community accessing these schools and programs.

Myth: The CBE has made all of these transportation decisions based on Bill 1

Fact: For the past two years, the CBE has been working towards developing a long-term, sustainable transportation system. We have announced a number of scheduled changes for the 2017-18 school year that will eliminate the need to subsidize the costs of transportation from the larger CBE budget. Introduction of Bill 1 accelerated some of our timelines for implementation of changes and we were not able to have some of the conversations with school communities that our parents have come to expect. These changes have been made to reduce our transportation deficit. We will continue to ensure the delivery of safe and efficient transportation for students. We will work with families to assist them during this transition.



Myth: The CBE is trying to get rid of Alternative Programs by not providing yellow school bus transportation for students to attend the program

Fact: No. In fact, the CBE values choice of programming and believes that families should have the opportunity to choose the program that is right for their child. Honouring our values of choice and equity of access to alternative programs has become more difficult under Bill 1.

The Alberta Education [FAQ document](#) clearly outlines the government's position on transportation to programs of choice.

Myth: The CBE didn't consult with parents before making transportation decisions

Fact: Last spring the CBE held an [extensive public engagement](#) with thousands of parents and stakeholders to help us determine a long-term, sustainable transportation strategy. Many of the changes we have implemented for the 2017-18 school year are based on the feedback we heard.

Introduction of Bill 1 accelerated some of our timelines for implementation of changes and we were not able to have some of the conversations with school communities that our parents have come to expect.

Myth: The government gave the CBE more money and it's not being used to cover the cost of transportation

Fact: Funding provided for transportation can only be used to support transportation. Yes, the CBE did receive \$8 million more from the Government and we are using all of it to support transportation of students deemed eligible under Bill 1.

