



December 2017

## Transportation Information for Alternative Programs of Choice

As per the Alberta School Act, students registered in Alternative Programs of Choice are not eligible to receive Provincial transportation grants and school boards are under no obligation to provide yellow bus service. As such, the level of transportation service provided by the CBE for these programs is significantly reduced and requires that the parents/guardians pay an annual fee. Additional information regarding CBE transportation service levels by program and grade level is available at:

<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/news-centre/Documents/Transportation-Service-Levels-Chart-2017-18.pdf>

The CBE offers the majority of students in K- 9 Alternative Programs access to yellow school bus service within a congregated stop model.

**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 CBE selects 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.

- The majority of elementary aged students in larger alternative language programs (*French Immersion, Spanish Bilingual and TLC*) will have a stop within 1 km from home because of the higher density of student population within a community accessing these schools and programs.
- It can be expected that the longest distances to a K-9 congregated yellow bus stop will be mostly for students travelling across the city to a program at a single site.
- For students in middle/junior high schools, service may be provided via yellow school bus or Calgary Transit. This is reviewed annual by CBE transportation.
- High School students attending an Alternative Program of Choice are designated to Calgary Transit.

When considering or registering your child for an Alternative Program of Choice, please verify the expected mode of transportation by contacting the school. For a list of CBE middle/junior high schools currently designated to Calgary Transit, please visit:

<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/busing-and-transportation/Pages/calgary-transit-information.aspx>

Pre-registration for transportation through an on-line, **My CBE Account**, is a critical component contributing to the successful planning of K-9 congregated routes and stops.

Registering for transportation ensures that your address will be included in transportation routing and stop planning decisions. If you do not register for transportation there is a chance that there will be no service in your community and there are no adjustments to congregated stop routes once they are published.

The invitation to all CBE parents to pre-register for transportation occurs in every year in late spring and will be communicated via an email from your child's school. If you do not yet have a **My CBE Account**, please register at:

<https://webapps.cbe.ab.ca/MyAccount/Account/LogOn>

In the event that you move to a new home, which results in your child being designated to a different school, then your child is re-designated to their Alternative Program at the new site. If there is a change to where the alternative program is housed, based on a CBE planning decision, then your child will be required to attend the new school.

If a parent wishes for their child to remain at the current location, despite a CBE initiated program move or home address change, the school principal may allow a student to remain based on the availability of space and resources. In this case, the student would be considered to be attending a non-designated school/program, transportation service is not provided and therefore becomes the responsibility of the parents/guardians.