



DATE: August 23, 2023

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Shawna Warren, Superintendent

ORIGINATORS: Amy Kolesar, Manager, Transportation Services
Shawna Warren, Superintendent

GOVERNANCE POLICY: [Policy 405 – Budget Development and Transparency](#)
[Policy 500 - Transportation \(with proposed amendments\)](#)

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE: *Education Act: Sections 139(1)(2), 143, 180, 183, 184*
Education Act: Sections 7(1), 4(1)(8), 59(1)
School Transportation Regulation AR96/2019

Assurance Domain - [Governance](#)

SUBJECT: 2023-2024 Pre-Kindergarten Noon Transportation Update

PURPOSE:

For information.

BACKGROUND:

The Division must prepare a balanced budget for review and approval by the Board, on an annual basis. Transportation Services reviewed the implication of budgetary pressures for the 2022-2023 school year and at the March 22, 2022 Public Board meeting, the Board made the decision to eliminate Noon Student/Child Transportation Services for Pre-Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year.

Historically, the Division provided ineligible services for students and children of the Division for noon transportation. Transportation services for pre-kindergarten children, prior to spring 2023, were considered ineligible due to not being funded by Alberta Education, therefore, considered discretionary/subsidized services. Based on the new transportation services funding manual released for the 2023-2024 school year, the Division will receive transportation funding for Program Unit Funding (PUF) students in early childhood education, which includes both kindergarten and pre-kindergarten children.

Since the approval of the 2023-2024 Budget, Transportation Services, in response to stakeholder feedback, has reviewed the transportation budget and evaluated the transportation application submissions with regards to the requests for noon transportation services for pre-kindergarten programming. Parents were able to submit applications for noon transportation services until August 15, 2023. Transportation Services has reviewed the submissions to see if any communities could potentially support noon transportation services with enough ridership interest. Transportation Services will bring forward a recommendation of the addition of a noon transportation route only if it is financially viable to do so.



Interest in noon transportation services was stronger in the communities of Morinville, Redwater and Gibbons. Interest in the remaining communities was negligible. However, there were not enough applications received to warrant the addition of any noon transportation routes. Based on the number of applications received, the Division would like to extend the deadline in Morinville, Redwater and Gibbons to apply for noon transportation until September 28, at 4:00 pm. If there is sufficient support for the noon route, it will be added for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. The Division wants to provide additional time for parents who may be interested in noon transportation services to submit their transportation applications.

Transportation Services communicated directly to parents who applied for noon transportation on their eligibility, as well as asked that they share the information regarding noon transportation services with other families who may be interested. Some schools will share this information at their staggered start for parents.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the August 23, 2023, Public Board meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Not applicable.