

## Guidelines for Development and Planning of Bus Routes

This guideline is issued by the Minister of Education in accordance with School Bus Transportation Policies for the purpose of providing direction to School Boards for the development of school bus routes.

School bus routes shall be designed in accordance with the following guidelines:

- i. Only eligible students, those residing 1.6 km or greater from their zoned school, will be considered when developing bus routes.
- ii. The distance to a school is defined as the shortest route by a publicly maintained roadway from the driveway of the students residence to the nearest accessible entrance to school property.
- iii. School boards should allow for the staggering of opening and closing times of schools to permit double running of buses.
- iv. School boards should, where feasible, operate school buses at full capacities as noted below:

K to 6	72 passengers
K to 12 (mixed load)	72 passengers
7 to 12	63 passengers

This assumes a 72 passenger school bus.
- v. The number of stops is limited to not more than 4 stops within 1.6 km for the purpose of taking on or discharging students, unless otherwise authorized by the Department.
- vi. In establishing school bus routes every effort will be made to remain on the main streets to minimize travel time. Buses may travel down side roads if students reside greater than 500 meters from the intersection with the main road. The side road, must be maintained by either the municipality or the Department of Transportation and Works, have an adequate bus turnaround to permit the bus to turnaround without backing up, and be able to accommodate large vehicles.

Amended March 22, 2005