

FI and EFSL Transportation

Students attending designated specialized programs (FI/EFSL) in schools beyond their regular attendance area are provided with the opportunity for transportation services that are **not the same** as regular home to school transportation.

SCDSB transportation Policy 2410 Transportation for Students reflects the differences between transportation for program specific riders versus regular home to school riders. The policy can be found at www.scdsb.on.ca under 'Board'.

From the policy – 4.13.1

The board's responsibility for the supervision of students who are transported on a school bus will commence only with the student's entrance to the bus and will terminate with the student's exit from the bus at the designated stop.

From SCDSB Administrative Procedures Memorandum A1225, also found at www.scdsb.on.ca under 'Board', the following elements apply to Program buses found in this situation:

- 3.1.2 Program buses are established to serve wide geographic areas, aligned with EFSL secondary school catchment areas.
- 3.1.3 Centralized community bus stops will be established to provide access for students to attend the specialized program. Notwithstanding clause 4.8.1.4 of SCDSB Policy 2410, Transportation of Students, it is the responsibility of students and parents/guardians to transport the student to and from the centralized community bus stops at designated times for pick up and drop off.
- 3.1.4 Maximum travel times for home to school transportation under SCDSB Policy 2410 will not apply to program buses and routes.
- 3.1.5 Maximum walking distance to a bus stop under SCDSB Policy 2410 will not be in effect for program buses.

The criteria that was given to the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) in selecting the stops for program transportation is found below:

- Centralized community bus stops distinct and in different locations from regular bus stops [these buses are program related not school related].
- Availability of parking for parents to drop off students and to await students in a safe manner.
- In public spaces or locations where groups of students may safely gather.
- Not on roadsides unless reviewed and approved following request.
- Utilize stop areas that are not also used for regular home to school transportation to avoid student identification confusion and traffic congestion.
- Stop locations not to be at or adjacent to a school location to avoid student identification confusion and traffic congestion.
- Stop locations must have winter maintenance.

The consolidation selects the centralized community stops based on these criteria because FI/EFSL is an optional program, and in order to offer transportation it was determined that stops could not be set up for individual locations but at the centralized community bus stops. As you can see above it is important for families to consider these factors before choosing a program for a child.