



BCTEA - INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEW JOINT FIRST NATION STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PLAN SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 2021/22 SCHOOL YEAR

Boards of Education and First Nations will work together to jointly develop Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans (Joint Plans) for First Nation Students living on-reserve to attend BC Public Schools. Joint Plans must be aligned with the Guiding Principles and policies for Developing Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans (refer to: FNs Transp. Planning and Procedures document).

Boards and First Nations should identify and develop transportation services and/or strategies which best meet the transportation needs of First Nation Students attending BC Public School(s). These strategies may include agreement for First Nation Students to walk to nearby BC Public School(s), be transported by school bus, water transportation, or other means. Transportation to extracurricular activities also need to be addressed.

To receive funding from the First Nation Student Transportation Fund (supplemental to the existing provincial Student Transportation Fund that school districts receive for all students through operating funding), each Board and First Nation is required to submit to the Ministry of Education a signed Transportation Service Worksheet that summarizes information on First Nation Student riders.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1 - Complete spreadsheet for ALL First Nation Students where transportation services are being provided.

Identify the First Nation Students attending a BC Public School and the number of Students for which transportation services (including walking) are being provided.

Step 2 - Describe the current level of service provided to First Nations Students

First Nation Students should be grouped into the type of transportation service being provided or requested, which may include bus and/or ferry service, transportation assistance or other transportation services.

Describe the current level of service, provided by the Board and/or the First Nation to transport these First Nation Students to BC Public Schools, and outline any gaps in transportation service levels identified by the First Nation that are provided by the Board and/or First Nation. This may include:

- Transportation services operated by First Nations transporting students to BC Public Schools which may be the operational and/or funding responsibility of the Board;
- Excessive or unsafe walking distances to schools or bus stops along busy roads or exposure to wildlife, or adverse weather conditions;

- Transportation service provided by the Board that is resulting in long bus ride times for students, early pick-up times for students, late arrival at school, crowding or inadequate access to extracurricular activities.

Step 3 - Describe the proposed or desired level of service requested by the First Nation and School District.

Describe the level of service requested by the First Nation to transport First Nation Students to BC Public Schools.

Step 4 - Estimate the cost of current and proposed or desired transportation services.

Boards and First Nations are required to identify the current cost of transportation services provided to transport First Nation Students living on-reserve to BC Public school(s).

As well, Boards and First Nations are required to identify and estimate the additional costs required to provide the transportation service that bridges the gap between the current service levels and the proposed or desired services identified by the First Nation, consistent with the categories above in Step 2.

These transportation costs may include the following:

- Students walking to school may include the cost of a walking school bus or crossingguards;
- Bus service cost based on total cost of delivering service for specific route/run (example, driver costs, fuel, insurance, vehicle maintenance, supervision):
 - Cost of bus service provided by Board of Education prorated based on First Nations Students (/passenger kilometres to total students (/passenger kilometres));
 - Cost of service operated by First Nations prorated based on First Nation Students being transported to First Nation and BC Public Schools, including those bused to First Nation schools on reserve and/or reciprocal tuition students being bused to First Nation schools on reserve;
- Ferry service costs for First Nation Students going to / from school.

Please note that the focus is on *operating costs* associated with First Nation Student transportation services. The Joint Committee will assess the Joint Plans to verify the accuracy of reported costs for efficiency and reasonableness. If transportation capital implications are identified, please refer to the Questions and Answers document for guidance.

Step 5 - Board and First Nation approval and sign off of Joint Plans

Joint Plans are to be signed by the Board Chair and Chief(s) of the First Nation, or their delegate, to confirm the current transportation services and related costs for transporting First Nations Students to BC Public School(s) and clearly outlining the area(s) of improved service for the consideration by the Joint Committee.