

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPING JOINT FIRST NATION STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PLANS

The following guiding principles apply to the development of Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans by Boards of Education and First Nations:

1. The Board of Education and First Nation will identify transportation needs and services to get all First Nation students enrolled in BC public schools to and from those schools, respecting parental choice of where to enroll their child to attend school.
2. Safety is paramount in all planning and decisions:
 - a) there will be a safety protocol in place to address safety issues for the First Nations (e.g. weather conditions; wildlife), and b) shelters will be made available where needed.
3. Transportation will be available for extracurricular activities and sports/sporting events.
4. There will be no walk limits (i.e. drivers need to go into the community or catchment area to pick up and drop off children).
5. The shortest ride possible will be implemented.
6. Wherever possible, there will be no highway pickups or drop offs.
7. A communications protocol will be established and agreed upon to ensure effective and timely communications to address issues that arise (e.g. travel disruption due to inclement weather) and method of preferred communication (e.g. radio/satellite communication).
8. Drivers will receive adequate professional development related to customer service, student management, etc. as required.
9. Criminal record checks will be required for bus/water taxi employees (including school district staff and nonschool district staff).
10. Changes to the joint plan may only be made by written agreement, with timely notice to parents.

There will be an annual joint review and assessment of the joint plan for effectiveness and to identify any improvements.