



## Participate in Public Workshops on Transportation Services

March 8, 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Your opinions are important to us and should be considered when we are making decisions that may affect you. That's why we are inviting you to get involved in sharing your thoughts and perspectives on transportation services.

The Calgary Board of Education made changes to transportation service levels for some elementary and junior high school students for the start of the 2015-16 school year, which resulted in these students travelling further than 1.6 and 1.8 km from home to their bus stop. Concerns were raised by the affected families about the new travel distances.

As a result, the CBE took the necessary steps to ensure that all students riding yellow school buses would be accessing stops in alignment with the travel distances of 1.6 and 1.8 km for elementary and junior high students. It was recognized at the time the decision was made that these changes represented a one-year solution, and that the CBE would be working with parents, students, staff and other stakeholders in the development of a sustainable, long term transportation strategy.

The CBE is facing some tough budget choices. For the 2016-17 school year, we are anticipating a \$13.2 million budget gap between provincial funding and the costs of delivering transportation services to students at current levels.

All families could be impacted by the choices we make. This means that we need to hear from both the families of students who take buses and the families of students who get to school in other ways. We need your help to find equitable solutions.

During March and April, the CBE will consult with parents/guardians, students, staff and other stakeholders to establish a Master Transportation Strategy. The strategy will help us deliver a safe, reliable and sustainable transportation system that provides equitable access to high-quality learning for all students.

We want your feedback on:

- Travel distances from home to bus stop
- Bus ride time
- Eligibility for yellow bus ridership
- Number and location of bus stops
- User fees
- Access to waivers
- Low ridership routes
- Bell times
- Two-year or three-year implementation plan for changes

By May, we will communicate with families about decisions on 2016-17 service levels and/or fee adjustments.



We are committed to meaningful engagement with all members of the CBE community on this issue. We will be offering multiple methods to provide your input – both online and in-person. The in-person opportunities are as follows:

**Small-Group Workshops**

Wednesday, April 6, 7-8:30 p.m.

- Tom Baines School, 250 Edgepark Blvd. N.W.
- Captain Nichola Goddard School, 405 Panatella Blvd N.W
- Crossing Park School, 500 Martindale Blvd N.E.
- Ernest Manning High School, 20 Springborough Blvd S.W.
- Centennial High School, 55 Sun Valley Blvd S.E.

Thursday, April 7, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

- Sir Winston Churchill High School, 5220 Northland Dr N.W.
- Sir John A. Macdonald High School, 6600 4 St N.W.
- Dr. Gordon Higgins School, 155 Rundlehill Dr N.E.
- Western Canada High School, 641 – 17 Avenue S.W.
- Dr. E.P. Scarlett High School, 220 Canterbury Dr S.W.

Tuesday, April 12, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

- Thomas B. Riley School, 3915 69th St N.W.
- William Aberhart High School, 3009 Morley Trail N.W.
- Lester B. Pearson High School, 3020 52 St N.E.
- Central Memorial High School, 5111 21 St S.W.
- David Thompson School, 9320 Arbour Cres. S.E.

Please register for these sessions on our website at the link provided below.

**Community Forums**

Community forums will provide options for stakeholders to discuss and consider, based on the input provided in the workshops.

Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Three Calgary locations; watch for more information on our website soon

A representative stakeholder advisory committee has been formed to help guide and support this engagement as well.

Up-to-date information about opportunities to get involved in this engagement will be posted on our website on an ongoing basis. You can also receive updates directly by subscribing to our public engagement circulation list, check out fact sheets and more on our website. Visit [www.cbe.ab.ca/dialogue](http://www.cbe.ab.ca/dialogue) and click on Transportation.

Again, we need you to be involved in helping us find equitable solutions to this transportation budget challenge. We look forward to working together.

Sincerely,

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