

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 30, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools  
SUBJECT: Student Transportation Fees for 2002-2003  
ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head  
RESOURCE  
STAFF: Rick Craig, Dorothy Sombach, Denise Kay

RECOMMENDATION

That for the 2002-2003 school year the schedule of monthly bus pass fees approved for 2001-2002, be reaffirmed:

<b><u>A. Edmonton Transit Passes</u></b>	<b><u>Fees:</u></b>
Kindergarten & Elementary (in neighbourhoods where schools have not been built)	\$ 5.00
Kindergarten & Elementary (new students in neighbourhoods where schools have been closed)	\$ 5.00
Elementary Special Needs	\$ 5.00
Elementary	\$ 20.00
Junior High	\$ 20.00
Senior High	\$ 20.00
<b><u>B. Charter Yellow Bus</u></b>	
i) <b>Regular:</b>	
Kindergarten & Elementary (in rural areas and neighbourhoods where schools have not been built)	\$ 5.00
Kindergarten & Elementary (new students in neighbourhoods where schools have been closed)	\$ 5.00
Elementary Special Needs	\$ 5.00
Elementary	\$ 20.00
Junior High	\$ 20.00
Senior High	\$ 20.00
ii) <b>Alternative Programs:</b>	
Kindergarten & Elementary	
1st child	\$ 36.00
2nd child	\$ 36.00
Family Maximum:	\$ 90.00
iii) <b>Special Needs Curb:</b>	

Elementary	\$ 5.00
Junior	\$ 20.00
Senior High	\$ 20.00

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With this recommendation, student transportation fees remain unchanged for the 2002-2003 school year (Appendix I). It includes the change approved last year in that students from areas where an elementary school has not been built are attending the designated receiving school who have been accessing transportation as an elementary student at \$5 per month and who are or will be attending the same designated receiving school as a junior high school be assessed a \$5 per month transportation fee rather than the \$20 per month student transportation fee.

The recommended fee schedule for the 2002-03 school year will generate \$4,177,000, and along with provincial funding of \$15,972,000 and \$590,446 from the 2001-02 carry forward surplus, total revenue will balance with the projected 2002-03 transportation expenditure of \$20,739,446. The carry forward surplus to 2002-2003 is estimated to be \$631,474, and will be used to assist in maintaining stable fees in 2003-04 by covering an Edmonton Transit bus pass expenditure increase of approximately \$400,000.

**Background**

Until the 2000-01 school year, student transportation fees fluctuated dramatically as a result of significant revenue and expenditure changes. The goal of stabilizing student transportation fees has been achieved by managing the number of students using Edmonton Transit and the number of students and type of programs supported by yellow bus service.

Student transportation fees are a key factor in determining the Student Transportation budget as the number of students purchasing bus passes has a significant impact on transportation expenditures and revenues. Fee variations are particularly noticeable with respect to the number of students using Edmonton Transit where the demand for transit bus passes is more price elastic than for yellow school bus passes. When Edmonton Transit student fees are lowered, student ridership and district expenditures grow significantly. Revenue generated through bus pass sales does not offset the increased expenditure as the reduced student bus pass fee is much lower than the price paid by the district to purchase the passes.

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APPENDIX I - History of Monthly Student Transportation Fees