

## Transportation Task Force

### Advocacy Plan – Adopted May 8, 2009

ISSUE	TASK	START DATE	TARGET COMPLETION DATE	ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENTS
<b>1.0 Transportation Report</b>	Finalize ASBA Transportation Report and distribute to school boards and stakeholders	September 2007	June 2008	ASBA Transportation Task Force	<i>The report was distributed at the 2008 ASBA SGM</i>
<b>1.1</b>	Verify findings of ASBA Transportation Report and seek school board input on promising practices and solutions to pressure points	June 2008	April 2009	ASBA Transportation Task Force	<i>Zone Representatives joined the task force in an effort to verify the findings of the ASBA Transportation Report and to seek school board input for solutions. Desired outcomes were identified based on the feedback received and accepted by the ASBA Board of Directors</i>
<b>2.0 Professional Development</b>	ASBA to support Alberta school boards in sharing their experiences in attempting to address the pressure points identified in the ASBA Transportation Report				
<b>2.1</b>	ASBA to provide boards with the opportunity to showcase their efforts	<i>to coincide with ASBA major events, or other education stakeholder events as appropriate, and/or by electronic means</i>		ASBA Transportation Task Force, Alberta School Boards & ASBA Communications Director	<i>ASBA to provide an opportunity for boards to showcase their initiatives at ASBA major events or other education stakeholder events as appropriate (storyboard format)</i>

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<b>3.0 Communications</b>	Develop a communication strategies to lobby for change in support of the desired outcomes identified by school boards*	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	ASBA Communications Director & ASBA Manager, Special Initiatives	<i>Ensuring comprehensive communication which includes public as part of education stakeholders; seek to provide resources and tools for boards to advocate for common outcomes</i>
<b>4.0 Multi-Stakeholder Engagement</b>	Convene a committee of education stakeholders to work with ASBA in preparing a framework for action to meet student transportation needs	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	ASBA Executive Committee of the Board of Directors	<i>ASBA will seek to convene a joint review of the student transportation system with government, ASBA and related stakeholder participation (consider public engagement); this review to ensure the various desired outcomes* identified by ASBA are considered; the ASBA Transportation Task Force may serve a role in this project</i>

\* *Through the review process facilitated by ASBA in developing the ASBA Transportation Report and related discussion guide, Alberta's school boards and the ASBA Board of Directors have indicated support for the adoption of the following desired outcomes (identified below in no particular order):*

- 1. The development and sharing of best practices within the student transportation system with one another and other education stakeholders.*
- 2. A reduction in the walk limit from 2.4 kilometers to 1.6 kilometers with additional, adequate and sustainable funding.*

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3. *Boards, Alberta Education and other education stakeholders engage in a collaborative process developing a framework for action, complete with strategies, policies and actions, to ensure sufficient staffing to meet student transportation needs.*
4. *An increase in the threshold for funding a community as an urban centre from a population of 10,000 to 50,000 as this is conceptually tied to the notion of an urban centre being able to support a mass transit system.*
5. *Boards, Alberta Education and other education stakeholders engage in a current and periodic review of the various components of the transportation funding formula to allow flexibility for addressing variances in jurisdictional needs. Within the three distinct funding formulas (rural, urban and metro), consideration should be afforded, but not limited to the following factors:*
  - *Ride time*
  - *Declining student enrolment*
  - *Road conditions*
  - *Sparsity*
  - *Density*
  - *Weighted load*
  - *Distance*
6. *While the government promotes programs of choice, and boards maintain local autonomy in offering programs of choice and in defining attendance areas, adequate funding to support associated transportation costs.*
7. *Boards, Alberta Education and other education stakeholders engage in a review of the special needs transportation funding formula to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for these transportation needs. Consideration needs to be given to permit the transportation of special needs students with other students without penalty to the board.*