

Name/Board: _____

Question 1: Eligibility Distance by Age

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
1.2 km for K-6 2.4 km for 7-12	1.6 km for K-6 2.4 km for 7-12	Maintain 2.4 km for all age levels

What we've heard:

- 2.4 km is too far for younger children to walk
- Preference for 1.2 km for Grades 1 to 6
- 2.4 km is an acceptable distance for older students

Considerations:

- Moving to 1.2 km would have significant financial implications for government and boards
- 1.6 km is used by some other provinces (MB, NL) and a variety of school boards

For discussion:

- Given fiscal constraints, is an eligibility distance of 1.6 km for younger students (K-6) a reasonable compromise?
- What would you anticipate to be the spin-off effects of lowering the distance for younger students?

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Question 2: Incorporating Safety Criteria

Option 1	Option 2
Do not include safety criteria in regulation. Boards continue to provide transportation for safety concerns at their discretion.	Include specific parameters for safety in regulation (uncontrolled railway crossings, uncontrolled crosswalks on roads over 60 km/hour, lack of infrastructure such as sidewalks).

What we've heard:

- Safety is a top concern for parents

Considerations:

- Safety considerations can vary significantly by community, and temporary hazards can arise due to construction, etc.
- Perceptions of safety hazards can vary significantly based on age and abilities of student
- Other provinces do not regulate safety criteria and leave it to individual boards to create policies on transportation safety

For discussion:

- Can/should safety be regulated at the provincial level? At the board level?
- Is it possible to determine safety criteria that is appropriate for all ages and location (urban vs. rural)?
- How do we deal with temporary safety issues?

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Question 3: Funding Safety Criteria

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Safety considerations are regulated and students requiring transportation as a result of safety concerns (aligned with regulation) are fully funded by the province.	Safety considerations remain at the board level; boards receive a set funding amount to be used to address safety at their discretion.	Safety considerations remain at the board level; boards are permitted to charge fees for students who face a safety concern but are otherwise ineligible based on age/distance.

What we've heard:

- Students should be eligible for safe transportation to school, regardless of the cost to taxpayers
- Some respondents have indicated an interest in allowing parents greater flexibility to choose higher levels of service above the regulated criteria, if desired

Considerations:

- Including safety parameters may significantly increase the transportation cost to the province

For discussion:

- Should safety criteria be funded?
- Are there less-costly alternatives to using buses to deal with safety concerns (e.g., walking school bus, walking buddies etc.)?

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After you have completed this document, please email it to:

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Submissions must be emailed by no later than **June 29, 2018**.