Transportation Guidelines for English Language Learners

The following transportation guidelines apply to students who qualify for and participate in the English Language Acquisition (ELA) program. Programs include:

- Elementary& Secondary TNLI – Transitional Native Language Instruction
- Secondary Newcomer
- Secondary ESL – English as a Second Language

These guidelines are based on the Denver Public Schools Board of Education transportation policies including policy EEAA (“Walkers and Riders”) Policy EEAA establishes the walk zone criteria for students at elementary school at 1 mile, middle school at 2.5 miles, and high school at 3.5 miles walking distance from the student’s home to the school.

The “walk zone” standards shall apply equally to ELLs and non-ELLs. Bus transportation services will be offered to students living outside the walk zone distance from either:

A) Their neighborhood school (regardless of that school’s ELA Program service status) which the student’s parent/guardian opts for them to actually attend

B) In the case of ELLs who accept services at a designated ELA Zone School or Newcomer Center which the parent/guardian opts for their student to attend. Eligible ELL students shall receive transportation services to Zone schools accordingly.

Exceptions are provided to students with disabilities, where bus transportation is a related service.

The requirements of Policy EEAA will be reevaluated annually to determine the most safe, and reliable options, and the best interests of all DPS students.

Transportation & Zone School Designations

Transportation shall be made available to students provide transportation to ELL students to Zone schools with goal of transporting students to the Zone school closest to their neighborhood school. The ELL student will not be provided transportation if they are within the walk zone and attend their neighborhood school where they are receiving services. The Transportation Department reserves discretion, based on operational, bus utilization, planning, and economic considerations, to determine which designated Zone School the ELL student will be transported to. However, it is expected that the selected Zone School will in most cases be the closest or among the closest to the ELL student’s neighborhood school, and in no event shall the ELL student be bused to a Zone School outside the student’s neighborhood school’s region.
**Transportation & Choice Options**

*What if I desire TNLI services but decide to choice out of my neighborhood school and Zone School, what are my transportation options?*

Transportation would become the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Any student who selects to choice out of their neighborhood school and designated ELA Zone School where the ELL student would have received ELA program services had the parent/guardian the services for their student.

**Transportation Exception Procedures**

*What if I don’t meet the eligibility criteria for Transportation?*

The parent/guardian of students wishing to use district transportation and who do not otherwise meet the eligibility criteria approved by the Board of Education and the Transportation Department guidelines may apply to the Transportation Department for a Transportation Exception. A Transportation Exception may be granted if there is “space available” on a bus. If space is available at the time of the parent/guardian’s application submission, the student will be allowed to board the district bus and obtain transportation as soon as possible; Transportation will require 1-2 weeks to notify and begin transportation. Buses will **are not added** to a route and **bus stops cannot be changed** in order to accommodate Transportation Exceptions.
DPS Transportation Options for ELL

**English Language Learners attending Neighborhood or Zone School for Elementary, Middle or High**

ELL students who request TNLI services, and attend his/her neighborhood school where TNLI/ ELA/ESL services are offered. Transportation **will be** provided if you live outside of the walk zone distance from your neighborhood school.

ELL students who request TNLI services, and his/her neighborhood school **does not** offer TNLI services. Students can elect to attend the *ELA Zone School designated* for your neighborhood. Transportation will be provided according to district guidelines.

**Examples:**

If your neighborhood school is Valdez, TNLI services are provided at Valdez, and you live 1.1 miles or more from Valdez. **Transportation will be provided according to district guidelines for elementary, middle and high.**

If your neighborhood school is Fairview, TNLI services are not provided at Fairview, and you still desire TNLI services. You can elect to attend your TNLI Zone School. If your *ELA Zone School* is Valdez, **transportation will be provided according to district guidelines for elementary, middle and high school.**

**Elementary Transportation Zone Schools**

*Schools will be added once confirmed*

**Middle School Transportation Zone Schools**

*School options will be updated once confirmed*

**High School Transportation Zone Schools**

*School options will be updated once confirmed*

**Newcomer Centers**

*School options will be updated once confirmed*