



NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Section Transportation – Student Safety	Revised July 31, 2012
SS – 006 Kindergarten Students must be Met at Their Stop	
Statement of Responsibility	<p>School boards, and thus the Nipissing-Parry Sound Student Transportation Services (NPSSTS), owe a duty of care to its pupils and are bound by the standard of a reasonably careful or prudent parent in providing for the supervision and protection of pupils under its care.</p> <p>Parents and guardians are responsible for the safety and conduct of their children prior to pick-up and immediately following drop-off from school buses and school-purpose vehicles (SPVs).</p> <p>Parents and guardians are responsible for determining the appropriate age or maturity level at which their children can walk to and from designated stops unattended. However, for the safety of all students in Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten (Kindergarten), they must be accompanied to and met at a designated stop by a responsible person each day. A request to designate an older sibling to accompany their child(ren) must be submitted to the school principal on the "Kindergarten must be met at their Stop * Special Permission *" form SS-006-1.</p>
Operational Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Special Provisions for Loading Kindergarten Students <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Kindergarten students are to be identified by a brightly coloured tag, designed and provided by the NPSSTS. Tags will be distributed to Kindergarten students by the schools and at First Rider programs. b) The NPSSTS will inform parents/guardians of these tags and their purpose under the program name "Tag the Bag". Communication pieces from the NPSSTS will include that parents/guardians are responsible for deciding what to write on their children's tags. c) It is recommended that a seating plan be provided for Kindergarten students and that they be identified to the driver and seated at the front of the school bus whenever possible. 2. Special Provisions for the Unloading of Kindergarten Students <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) All Kindergarten students are to be met by a parent, guardian or designated adult upon unloading from a school bus or SPV. b) Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that no Kindergarten student is unloaded from a school bus or SPV



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	<p>unless the parent, guardian or designated person is present to meet the student.</p> <p>c) Due to potentially large numbers of students dropped off at some locations and the possible use of replacement school bus drivers, the NPSSTS has created the aforementioned “Tag the Bag” program to ensure that all students who are to be met are easily identifiable by this visual aid. The NPSSTS and its school bus operators cannot guarantee that a child is met by a responsible adult each day unless the child has this tag. Supervision of students prior to pick-up and after drop-off remains a parental responsibility.</p> <p>d) If the school bus or SPV driver notices that a parent, guardian or designated adult is not present to meet a Kindergarten student at the designated stop:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The driver is to call dispatch to telephone the school to inform school staff that the student is being returned. Dispatch will also telephone the NPSSTS. ii. Should the school and/or the NPSSTS be unable to reach the parent, guardian or designated adult and should the driver be unable to return the child to the school, the driver will deliver the child into the care of the proper authorities. <p>e) The above procedures with respect to unloading of Kindergarten students will be included in written communication to parents/guardians that will be distributed at Welcome to Kindergarten and First Rider programs, at the time of registration and/or at the beginning of the school year. This written communication will include a statement that parents/ guardians are responsible for the safety and conduct of their children prior to pick-up and immediately following drop-off from school buses and SPVs.</p>
<p>Consequences</p>	<p>Upon the first occurrence of a child not being met, the school principal will issue a warning to the parent(s)/guardian(s).</p> <p>Parents/guardians acknowledge that failure to have an assigned individual completing the above requirements may result in the suspension or removal of their child(ren)’s transportation privileges.</p>