



Policy Code – Version: T17 – V1

Policy Name: Weighted Vehicle Loading Capacity for School Buses

Approved by motion of Board on 08/11/2010

Cross Reference

T1 – Access to Empty Seats on School Bus Vehicles;
T14 – Transportation Services

Related Forms

Policy Statement

1. The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority considers the safety and security of students during transportation on contracted vehicles to be of the highest priority and recognizes that the number of students assigned to vehicles may impact student safety and security.
2. The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority shall establish Weighted Loading Capacity (Weighted Capacity) standards for contracted school bus vehicles that will not exceed the Manufacturer's Seating Capacity Rating (MSCR) and will help serve to ensure student safety by limiting the number of students assigned for service on contracted vehicles.
3. School Bus routes shall be designed to accommodate student ridership in keeping with established Weighted Capacity standards and the MSCR to reasonably accommodate as many riders as possible while respecting student safety and comfort during transport.

Procedure

1. School Bus vehicles will not be loaded in excess of the Manufacturer's Rated Occupancy.
2. The loading of school vehicles will be based on the following Optimum Weighted Load Capacity which will serve as a guideline:

Manufacturer's Seating Capacity Rating (MSCR)	Optimum Weighted Capacity Gr. JK-6	Optimum Weighted Capacity Gr. 7-12
20	20	17
36	36	24
48	48	32
60	60	40
66	66	44
70	70	46
72	72	48

3. For school runs that serve a combination of students ranging from kindergarten to grade 12, loads shall not exceed the Optimum Weighted Capacity and will be calculated using the following weighted load factors:

- Junior Kindergarten to grade 6: 1 weighted load factor per student
- Grades 7 to 12: 1.5 weighted load factor per student