

MAPC Position Statement
April 23, 2010
Transportation of Students

Whereas the safety of our children is of paramount importance to all parents, we recognize the need to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to minimize the potential risks when our children are transported to and from a variety of school related activities.

Although MAPC recognizes that the use of school buses driven by professional bus drivers may be the best way to ensure student safety, this is not practical in all cases. Often, a small number of students are being transported as the cost for utilizing school buses for all activities would be cost prohibitive. If using school buses for all school related activities became mandatory, this would effectively put an end to many extra-curricular programs and out of school activities. This would be a grave disservice to our youth.

In looking for alternate modes of transportation for our children, we must consider safety issues in conjunction with the realities of cost and efficiency. In order to reduce risks to students, we recommend that school divisions create clear policy to ensure that all vehicles used for transport are legally registered, meet basic safety standards, and are driven by identified, licensed drivers who agree to comply with all rules of the road.

MAPC recognizes that there is a delicate balance between taking reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of our children, and creating too many obstacles for volunteers which may result in a lack of drivers or inability to support out of school activities.

Rationale:

MAPC would like to be able to share this position, as representative of its members, with our education partners (including the Minister of Education), and the media.