

Business- Non-Instructional Operations

TRANSPORTATION

I. GENERAL

It is the goal of the Board of Education to establish for the public schools an appropriate transportation system – one which will enable all qualified children of school age to attend school by school bus wherever transportation is required within guidelines set forth in this policy. The Superintendent of Schools is responsible to the Board for the school transportation system. School bus transportation is for pupils and supervising adults.

The transportation system shall be planned and operated in compliance with the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and all regulations of the State Department of Education and the State Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the operation of student transportation vehicles.

II. DEFINITIONS

School Transportation - the means by which a pupil is conveyed to or from his/her residence to or from the school in which he/she is enrolled by the Board at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned vehicle or by private contract.

Walking Distance – the linear measure of distance along a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the pupil’s residence and his/her school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil’s residence to a point at the entrance of the school or to a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school building entrance or the bus pick-up area; or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus stop or vehicle embarkation point established by the Board of Education or school administration.

Walking Route – the assigned or authorized route a pupil walks to arrive at school or at the designated bus stop.

Riding Time – the time which a pupil spends on a school bus, or in a motor vehicle, from his/her bus stop to school or from the school to his/her bus stop.

Walking Time – the time which a pupil should be expected to traverse, under normal conditions, the walking distance along his/her walking route (waiting time is excluded from walking time computation).

Normal Transportation Time – the combination of walking time and riding time under good weather conditions, one way.

Pupil – any individual of school age enrolled in a public school within the school district, or a special education pupil who is the responsibility of the school district, regardless of whether he/she is educated within the school district. Pupil shall also mean an individual of school age (PK-12) who is a resident of the school district and attends a nonprofit private school located

within the school district (where the majority of the children attending such nonprofit school are residents of the state of Connecticut).

Grade PK/K – Pre-kindergarten/kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning pupil.

Hazard – a condition as described further in this policy that affects the safety of pupils walking to and from school or the bus stop.

III. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

A. Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of the maximum walking distances shall be deemed hazardous. The maximum walking distances from home to school or to a prescribed point of embarkation for bus stops are the following:

- (1) pupils under the age of 10, or enrolled in grades PK through 3, one mile;
- (2) pupils aged 10 to 14, or enrolled in grades 4 through 8, one and one-half miles;
- (3) pupils aged 14 and over or enrolled in grades 9 through 12, two miles.

B. A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exists:

1. For pupils under the age of 10, or enrolled in grades PK through 3, absence of pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and at street crossings where there are no stop signs or crossing guards and the traffic count during the time that pupils are walking to or from school exceeds sixty vehicles per hour at the intersection;
2. For pupils age 10 and over, or enrolled in grades 4 through 12, the absence of a traffic light or stop signs or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect and has a traffic count which exceeds ninety vehicles per hour during the time that pupils are walking to or from school;
3. For all pupils, any street, road or highway with speed limits in excess of forty miles per hour which do not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where pupils must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop;
4. For all pupils, the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open man-holes, construction, snow plowed or piled on the walk area making walkways unusable, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on walkways, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking areas at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, and the like, including such nuisance which is hazardous or attractive to children.

C. Any street, road or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist:

1. For pupils under the age of 10 or enrolled in grades PK through 3, any street, road or highway possessing a traffic count of sixty or more vehicles per hour at the time that pupils are walking to or from school;
2. For pupils under the age of 10, or enrolled in grades PK through 3, any street, road or highway possessing a speed limit in excess of thirty miles per hour;

3. For all pupils, the presence of man-made hazards including attractive nuisances, as stated in section (B)(4) above, except that with respect to plowed or piled snow.

D. Any street, road or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous when the line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with any Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, or Connecticut Department of Transportation, requirements, or in the expert opinion of the safety expert for the bus contractor which provides transportation for the district.

E. Any walkway, path or bridge in an area adjacent or parallel to railroad tracks shall be considered hazardous unless a suitable physical barrier along the entire pedestrian route is present and fixed between pupils and the track; and any crossing of railroad tracks that carry moving trains during hours that pupils are walking to or from school shall be deemed hazardous unless, (1) a crossing guard is present; or (2) an automatic control bar is present at crossings used by pupils under age ten, or, a bar or red flashing signal light is operational when the crossing is used by pupils over ten years of age.

F. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, waterway or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water for pupils in grades PK through 4.

G. Any area adjacent to a roadway, walkway, sidewalk or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes, in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier, shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades PK through 4.

H. Walking to or from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise or any time one-half hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades PK through 5.

I. A degree of road grade or incline so steep as to present a grave risk of loss of vehicular control, particularly during inclement weather conditions shall be deemed a hazardous condition.

J. Buses shall not travel on roads that are not regularly maintained by the state, county or town highway departments. NOTE: Without the express permission of the Board of Education, no school bus shall enter onto any private road for purposes of picking up or discharging students.

IV. SUSPENSION OF TRANSPORTATION PRIVILEGES

A. Pupils may be suspended or excluded from transportation privileges for serious and/or repeated infractions of rules or violation of board policies regarding student conduct. All suspensions and exclusions will be in accordance with state statutes and Board policy.

B. Discipline problems on buses or vans are handled by the Principal of the school the pupil attends.

C. The Director of Business Services administers discipline to technical school students and other pupils not assigned to a public school.

D. Particularly dangerous or disruptive behavior, as determined by the administering authority, may result in immediate suspension of up to ten (10) days.

E. Any offense involving weapons and/or the sale and/or distribution of controlled substances will result in expulsion proceedings as provided for under Board of Education Policy.

V. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- A. Normal transportation time shall not routinely exceed one hour.
- B. A pupil with a physical disability and/or health conditions rendering him/her unable to walk to either the bus stop or school shall receive appropriate transportation as determined by the pupil's physician in conjunction with the school medical advisor. The pupil shall be required to submit medical documentation to support this accommodation.
- C. The school district shall provide students who receive special education with transportation in accordance with the requirements of state and federal law.
- D. Transportation services for homeless pupils shall be provided in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, as amended.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes:

[10-186](#) Duties of local and regional boards of education re: school attendance

[10-220](#) Duties of Boards of Education

[10-220c](#) Transportation of children over private roads. Immunity from liability.

[10-233c](#) Suspension of Pupils

[10-280](#) Transportation for pupils in nonprofit private schools outside school district

[10-281](#) Transportation for pupils in nonprofit private schools within school district

[14-275a](#) Use of standard school bus, when.

42 U.S.C.A. 11431 (McKinney Vento Act)

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