

Transportation Policy

Policy

Every reasonable effort will be made to transport all pupils who qualify for transportation in accordance with various provisions of this transportation policy. Pupils also will be transported when a hazardous condition that cannot be eliminated exists.

A. Definitions

1. School transportation means the procedure, program, or fully effective and implemented plan by which a pupil is conveyed to and/or from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense to school programs during a normal school day, whether by use of publicly-owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads approved pursuant to Public Act 78-201.

2. Walking distance means the linear measure of the shortest prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the pupil's residence and his school from a point in the middle of a public or private road nearest the pupil's residence to a point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus or vehicle embarkation point established by the Board of Education.

3. The school attended is the school designated by the Superintendent of Schools.

4. Hazard means a thing or condition, as prescribed in these guidelines, affecting the safety of pupils walking to and from a school or a designated bus pickup area.

B. Walking Distances

1. Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of the following distances shall be considered to be hazardous: 1) one mile for students in grades K to 5; 2) 1.4 miles for students in the middle school grades, 6, 7 and 8; 3) two miles from home to school or to a prescribed point of embarkation for pupils enrolled in grades 9 through 12.

2. Distance will be calculated through use of an official Board of Education measuring device.

C. Hazardous Conditions

1. Any street, road or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous for pupils enrolled in Grades K-8 if any two of the following conditions exist. But for pupils enrolled in grades 9-12, such road, street or highway shall be deemed hazardous when three or more of the following conditions exist:

- a. There exists a line of sight obstruction caused by a hill, curve, structure, outcropping, land form, planting or other obscuring object or structure which may be safely negotiated by vehicles only at greatly reduced speeds.
- b. For all pupils, any street, road or highway with speed limits in excess of 30 miles per hour which do not have traffic control devices at points where pupils must cross when going to or from school or from the bus stop.
- c. The absence of traffic control devices and/or signs including, but not limited to, electronic signals, crosswalks, stop signs, crossing guards.
- d. Where the history of vehicular and/or pedestrian accidents on the route along which the pupil walks is reasoned to be excessive.
- e. Where the width of the shoulder of the road along which the pupil walks is such that the safe walking area is severely limited.
- f. A situation shall be considered hazardous wherein the Board of Education requires a pupil enrolled in grades K-8 to walk to or from school at anytime prior to 43 minutes before sunrise or anytime 45 minutes after sunset.

D. Special Education Pupils

Special Education pupils shall be judged on an individual basis.

E. Exceptions

1. The Board of Education may grant an exception to any provision of this policy wherein a peculiar condition or combination of conditions renders such condition a hazard based upon reasonable judgment.
2. *Expelled students, with the exception of those with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) requiring services necessitating transportation, will lose bus privileges for the term of the student's expulsion.*

G. Complaints of Unsafe Conditions

Anyone having a complaint of an unsafe transportation condition should put the complaint in writing to the Business Manager.

The Business Manager will investigate the complaint and respond in writing within ten working days.

If the situation is not resolved, the person bringing the complaint should notify the Superintendent in writing. The Superintendent will respond within ten working days.

If the problem remains unresolved, a transportation hearing with the Board of Education may be requested in writing with the Board Secretary. The hearing will be scheduled within thirty days of the request.