

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Transportation

The Board of Education will provide transportation for students under provisions of state law and regulations. The Superintendent of Schools shall administer the operation so as to:

1. provide for safety of students.
2. supplement and reinforce desirable student behavior patterns.
3. assist handicapped students appropriately.
4. enrich the instructional program through carefully planned field trips as recommended by the staff.

Transportation by private carrier may be provided whenever such practice is more economical than using school district-owned facilities. Parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible students whenever such practice is more economical or convenient.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-220 Duties of boards of education
 10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education
 14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when
 14-275b Transportation of handicapped students
 14-275c Regulations re: school buses and motor vehicles used to
 transport special education students

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Policy Revised: December 10, 1997

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Transportation

The Board of Education will, in a manner not inconsistent with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes, furnish by transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child who resides within the jurisdiction of the Board and is not a graduate of high school or vocational school (or who is not otherwise legally excluded from school) may attend the public schools maintained by the Board pursuant to Section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

A. Definitions

1. "Walking distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student's residence and his school from a point at the curb or edge of a public road or highway nearest the student's residence to the nearest allowable access of the school, or the bus pickup area; or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus (or vehicle) embarkation point (bus stop) established by the board.

2. "One mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5, 280 feet.

3. "Grade K" means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning student under age six.

4. "Walking route" means a reasonably direct route which the child would normally be expected to travel between his residence and the school to which he attends. This route should be against the traffic flow.

5. "Hazard" means (1) exposure to conditions considered morally degrading or physically harmful, or (2) an unsafe condition presenting a problem, the solution of which is beyond the ordinary capability of a child of a given age or attainment or including specifically the following:

- a. A walking route along a portion of a road having an adjacent or paralleled walk area is a hazard where any of the following conditions exist along said walking route:
 1. Posted speed limits for motor vehicles are in excess of forty miles per hour and there are not pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where students must cross said street or road going to and from school;
 2. A temporary or permanent obstruction or attraction which renders the area unsafe in the judgment of the school administration;

3. For students under age ten, or enrolled in grades K through 6, absence of pedestrian crossing light, or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and at a street crossing where there are no stops signs or crossing guards; and,
 - b. A walking route along a portion of a road having no adjacent or paralleled walk area is a hazard for students enrolled in grades K-6, when all the following conditions are met:
 1. There exists a frequent line-of-site obstruction such as a hill, curve, or structure which may be safely negotiated by vehicles only at speeds under fifteen miles per hour.
 2. The line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping distances in accordance with the CT DMV standards.
 3. The roadway available to vehicles, when plowed free of snow accumulation, has a width of twenty (20) feet or less.
 - c. Any walkway or path in an area adjacent to, and paralleled to railroad tracks shall be considered a hazard unless suitable physical barriers along the walking routes are present, and fixed between the tracks and the walking route (such as guard railings). Tracks that carry moving trains during hours that students are walking to or from school will be deemed hazardous unless the following conditions exist:
 1. A crossing guard is present; or
 2. An automatic control bar is present at crossings used by children under age ten, or a bar, or red flashing signal light is operational when the crossing is used for students over ten years of age.
 - d. A lake, stream, or waterway may be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable structure fixed between the walking route and the water.
 - e. Any street, road, walkway or path designed as a walking route for school students which passes through an area which has a history of aggressive acts or molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm, or moral degradation, during the hours when students ordinarily walk to and from school.
6. Bus stops shall not exceed more than a total of two locations in the morning and two locations in the afternoon for any student unless there has been prior approval by the school administration.

7. Request for new or changed bus stops must be made in writing to the school administration a minimum of one week in advance.

B. Duties of the Superintendent

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools or designee to manage and supervise the school transportation service and, in connection therewith, to do the following:

1. Determine eligibility for school transportation in accordance with these guidelines and Section 10-186 of the General Statutes.

2. Establish school transportation routes and designate locations for pick-up points (bus stops).

3. Develop, circulate and enforce codes of behavior for those children who are transported to and from school via school transportation.

4. Develop procedures for responding to requests pertaining to matters of school transportation or other school accommodations.

5. Give due consideration to requests for extension of school transportation service.

6. Perform all other duties and responsibilities related to the furnishing of school accommodations by school transportation or otherwise in a manner not inconsistent with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes or these guidelines.

C. Eligibility of School Transportation

Students will be eligible for school transportation if one or more of the following criteria is present:

1. The walking distance for the student is in excess of the guidelines established by the Board which shall not exceed the following maximum distances:

a. For students enrolled in grades K through 4, up to one (1) mile;

b. For students enrolled in grades 5 through 8, up to one and one-half (1 1/2) miles; and,

c. For students enrolled in grades 9 through 12, up two (2) miles.

2. All students with identified disabilities, ages 3 to 21.

D. Eligibility for Out-of-Town Transportation

1. Any resident of the school district under twenty-one years of age who is not a high school or vocational school graduate and who is attending the nearest state vocational school shall be eligible for transportation.

2. A student who is placed by a Planning and Placement Team for special education reasons in either a public or private educational institution out-of-town shall be provided the necessary transportation unless otherwise provided by law.

E. Appeals

Any parent, guardian, student at majority, or any agent or officer whose duty it is to compel the observance of the laws concerning attendance at school may appeal any administrative decision concerning school transportation in the following manner:

1. Discuss the matter with the principal of the school to which the student is assigned.

2. If no resolution is reached under (1) above, discuss the matter with the coordinator of transportation or designee.

Any parent, guardian, student at majority, or office whose duty it is to compel the observance of the laws concerning attendance at school, who believes that the Superintendent, or his/her designee, is not furnishing school accommodations, by transportation or otherwise, to himself or herself or to his/her child in a manner consistent with the laws of the State of Connecticut, including the provisions of 10-186, in writing, request a hearing before the Board to show the Board the manner in which the Superintendent has so failed to furnish such accommodations.

A stenographic record or tape recording shall be made of such hearing.

F. Routes and Services

All students, at the discretion of the Board of Education, shall walk to school with the following exceptions:

1. Grades kindergarten through 3: students living more than 1 mile from school.
2. Grades 4 through 8: students living more than 1.5 miles from school.
3. Grade 9 through 12: students living more than 2 miles from school.

Students, at the discretion of the Board of Education, shall walk to the nearest bus stop up to the following maximum distances:

1. Kindergarten through 3 - 1 mile
2. Grades 4 through 8 - 1.5 miles
3. Grades 9 through 12 - 2 miles

Bus stops may be located at more frequent intervals to reduce student congestion at the stops, or for other reasons of safety as determined by the Board.

School transportation services are provided exclusively for the benefit and safety of the student population, and are to be used only in support of programs authorized by and under the auspices of the school board.

Children may ride buses other than their own only at the convenience of the school district in accordance with bus safety regulations. A request must be submitted by the parent to the principal of the school for his/her official approval each time a child is to take a bus other than his regular one.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-76d re: transportation for special education program services
10-97 Transportation to vocational schools
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re: school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board.
Establishment of hearing board.
10-220 Duties of boards of education
10-220c Transportation of children over private roads. Immunity from liability
10-273a Reimbursement for transportation to and from elementary and secondary schools
10-280a Transportation for pupils in non-profit private schools outside school district
10-281 Transportation for pupils in non-profit private schools within school district
14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when
14-275b Transportation of handicapped students
14-280 Letters and signals to be concealed when not used in transporting children. Signs on other vehicles.

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