

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation

General

It is the goal of the Board of Education (Board) 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 (Superintendent) is responsible to the Board for the school transportation system. School bus transportation is for students 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.

Definitions

School Transportation - the means by which a student 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 or privately owned vehicle. Such transportation shall be over paved public roads approved and maintained by the municipality/state or paved private roads approved pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-220C.

Walking Distance - the distance along a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student's residence and his/her school, from a point on a paved public road or highway nearest the student's residence to a point at the entrance of the school; or to a safe entrance to the school grounds; or to the student's assigned bus stop.

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

Riding Time - the time which a student 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 student should be expected to traverse, under normal condition, 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.

Student - individual of school age enrolled in a public school within the school district, or a special education student who is the responsibility of the school district, regardless of whether he/she is educated within or out of the school district. Student shall also mean an individual who attends the Waterford Schools.

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Transportation (continued)

Definitions (continued)

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

Extreme Safety Hazard - an unsafe thing or condition presenting difficulties or problems the solution of which is beyond the ordinary capability of a student of a given age or attainment.

Routes and Services

The Superintendent or designee, in arranging student transportation, shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Maximum walking distances for students:
 - a. Students below 10 years of age or enrolled in the equivalent of grades K-3 - one half mile.
 - b. Students between 10-17 years of age or enrolled in the equivalent of grades 4-12 - one mile.
2. Normal transportation time shall not exceed one hour.
3. Students shall not be required to walk to school or to a designated bus stop when a condition exists along the assigned route to school or to the bus stop which would present an extreme safety hazard to a student. The following shall be considered extreme safety hazards along walking routes.
 - a. A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exist:
 - (1) A street crossing where there are no stop signs or crossing guards;
 - (2) Any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty-five (45) miles per hour which do not have safety provisions at points where students must cross when going to or from school;
 - (3) The usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open man-holes, construction, 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 dangerous or attractive to children.

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Routes and Services (continued)

- b. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, or water-way may be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the student and the water.
 - c. Any roadway, walkway, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes without a fence or other suitable barrier shall be deemed a hazard.
- 4. The school system Business Office will maintain a log of all reported bus safety concerns and/or complaints. This log will identify the bus number(s), involved, the date of safety violation, the date of report, the individual's name reporting the violation, definition of the condition as reported, the date and initials of the individual logging the complaint, and a space for logging completed and follow-up information. The school system Business Manager will review the logged complaints regularly to insure that follow-up and completed actions are obtained.
- 5. Students with physical handicaps will be appropriately transported with the presentation of and doctor's certificate. The certificate will state the length of disability. On long-term transportation requests, certificates will be renewed as of September of each year.

Suspension of Transportation Privileges

Students may be suspended or excluded from transportation privileges for serious and/or repeated infractions of rules, laws, or breaches of discipline. All suspensions and exclusions will be in accordance with state statutes and Board policy.

- a. Discipline problems on buses or vans are handled by the Principal of the school the student attends.
- b. The Business Manager administers discipline to technical school students and other students not assigned to a Waterford Public School.
- c. Guidelines regarding transportation discipline actions for violating transportation rules (as defined in Student Handbooks and Regulations) are as follows:
 - 1st offense - Written notice of warning to parents
 - 2nd offense - One (1) to three (3) days suspension from transportation
 - 3rd offense - Four (4) to five (5) days suspension from transportation
 - 4th offense - Up to ten (10) days suspension from transportation

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Suspension of Transportation Privileges (continued)

Particularly dangerous or disruptive behavior, as determined by the administering authority, may result in immediate suspension from school consistent with policy 5114 of up to ten (10) days.

- d. Any offense involving weapons and/or the sale and/or distribution of controlled substances will result in exclusion proceedings as provided for under Board of Education Policy 5131.7 (Dangerous Weapons in the Schools).

Special Transportation for Exceptional Children

Transportation shall be provided, as a related special education service, as required to implement the individualized education program for each student requiring special education and related services. The following additional guidelines apply to special education students:

1. Normal transportation time shall not exceed one hour each way to and from a special education facility. Decisions relating to travel time shall consider the nature and severity of the student's exceptionality and the student's age. If an appropriate placement cannot be made within the one hour travel time limit, written parental consent to longer travel time shall be obtained prior to implementing the transportation service.
2. Operators of vehicle shall be given in-service training, as necessary, concerning the specific needs of students being transported.
3. Transportation aides shall be provided for a student whose individualized education program specifies the need for such an aide.
4. If a parent transports his/her child to and from school, with prior approval, the parent shall be reimbursed for the cost of such transportation at a mileage rate approved by the Superintendent. No parent shall be required by the school district to provide transportation.

Employee's Duties: Driver

The Superintendent shall approve all student transportation drivers annually and/or upon initial employment following certification by the bus contractor that each driver is in all respects qualified to drive a school transportation vehicle.

The Superintendent or designee may remove a driver from his/her assignment as deemed necessary and shall report the action to the Board.

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Equipment (Transportation)

All school contracted motor vehicles used in transporting school children shall comply with all current regulations of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and current contract.

Exceptions to Transportation Policy

The Superintendent may grant a temporary exception to this policy if required by factors or combinations of factors which are not covered by this policy. Any exceptions made shall be reported to the Board and appropriate policy changes recommended as needed.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
 4-177 et seq. re Contested cases. Notice. Record
 10-76d Duties and powers of Boards of Education to provide special education programs and services. Determination of eligibility for Medicaid. State agency placements; apportionment of costs. Relationship of insurance to special education costs.
 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.
 10-187 Appeal from finding of hearing board.
 10-220 Duties of Boards of Education.
 10-220c Transportation of children over private roads. Immunity from liability.
 10-233d Expulsion of students. Hearing format. Age limitation for the provision of an alternate educational opportunity; exceptions. Notice on cumulative educational record. Adoption of decision of another school district.
 10-273a Reimbursement for transportation to and from elementary and secondary schools.
 10-280a Transportation for pupils in nonprofit private schools outside school district.
 10-281 Transportation for pupils in nonprofit private schools within school district.
 14-275 Equipment and color of school buses.
 14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when. Use of mass transportation permitted, when. Use of certain motor vehicles prohibited.
 14-275b Transportation of mobility impaired students.
 14-275c Regulations re school buses and motor vehicles used to transport special education students. Operators age seventy or older.

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Transportation (continued)

Legal References: (continued)

14-276 Licensing of school bus operators. Names of suspended or revoked licenses furnished upon request.

14-276a Regulations re school bus operators and operators of student

14-277 Operator's duties on stopping bus.

14-278 Hours of operation. Placement of seats. No extra exemption or authority for operators.

14-279 Vehicles to stop for school bus. Penalties. Written warning or summons.

14-280 Letters and signals to be concealed when not used in transporting children. Signs on other vehicles.

14-281 Penalties.

14-281a Speed of school buses. Display of head lamps.

14-281b Summons issued to holder of public passenger transportation permit while operating school bus or student transportation vehicle; copy to be sent to employer and local Board of Education; notification of disposition of case.

14-281c Report of serious accidents involving school buses or student transportation vehicles.

14-281d Duties of operators of student transportation vehicles re receipt or discharge of school children.

14-282 Vehicle formerly used as school bus to be repainted. Inspection of other vehicles.

14-282a Inspection districts for school buses and student transportation vehicles.

14-36f (formerly Sec. 10-24d) Regulations concerning driver education programs.