

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND SERVICES

The Board of Education (Board) shall provide transportation for all pupils as follows:

- Pupils in grades 9 through 12 who live more than 2.5 miles from school;
- Pupils in grades 7 and 8 who live more than 2.0 miles from school;
- All pupils classified as handicapped.

The Board reserves the right to provide transportation for pupils living less than 2.5 miles or 1.0 miles from school in cases where the pupil would be faced with special or extraordinary pedestrian safety hazards in walking between home and school. All bus routes will be designed in accordance with state law and the rules, regulations and recommendations of the state department of education.

Services on Regular Routes

1. The Board of Education shall establish routes and bus stops in the interests of public safety and economy for pupils and the motoring public.
2. Pupils in grades kindergarten through eight who live remote (more than two miles from school) should be transported to and from school; they will not be required to walk more than 1-1/2 miles to established bus stops and whenever possible, they will not ride on the bus more than 45 minutes.
3. Pupils in grades 9 through 12 who live remote (more than 1-1/2 miles from school) shall be transported to and from school; they will not be required to walk more than 2 miles to established bus stops and whenever possible, they will not ride on the bus more than one hour.

Scheduling and Routing

The superintendent and his/her designee are authorized to prepare and establish bus stops and routes in the safest, most economical and efficient manner possible. All pupils who are bused shall be assigned to specific buses and seats for the purposes of being transported to and from school.

A. School-related trip routes

The Board of Education shall approve all trips for school-related education benefits:

1. Class trips to areas or buildings for class-related educational benefits;
2. Athletic trips for school-sponsored activities;
3. Special activities that may arise periodically for pupils;
4. Late buses for those pupils who remain after school for school-sponsored activities.

B. School-related trip services

The Board of Education shall require that:

1. All trips approved shall be those traveling from the school to the place of destination and returning to the school. At least one adult chaperone shall be assigned to each bus.
2. Late buses that run on a scheduled time and route shall be utilized by pupils who are authorized to remain after the regular session hours whenever times are convenient.

The Board of Education (Board) directs the Chief School Administrator (CSA) to supervise development of bus routes to provide safe, economical and reasonably expeditious transportation for:

- A. Pupils who live remote from the schoolhouse as defined by New Jersey law;
- B. Educationally disabled pupils in accordance with their IEP;
- C. Pupils participating in board-approved extracurricular activities or field trips;
- D. Pupils whose route to the school is deemed hazardous by the board;
- E. Other pupils as required by law.

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The criteria to be used in designing routes and assigning pupils to them shall include:

- A. The distance to be traveled to and from school;
- B. The age and state of health of the child;
- C. The requirements of the instructional program;
- D. The hazards involved on the route to be traveled.

The Board may charge parents/guardians for transporting pupils who live within statutory limits. The charge shall include, but not be limited to the cost of fuel, driver salaries and insurance.

Transportation to and from school shall be provided as required by law to eligible nonpublic school pupils and to pupils attending charter schools. All pupils riding on district buses shall be required to observe the district's bus conduct regulations or risk loss of the privilege of such transportation.

Buses, whether contracted or district-owned, shall be kept in optimum condition and shall conform to all state safety regulations.

Bus routes must be acted upon by the Board and submitted to the county office.

Waiver of Eligible Transportation Services

Each school year a parent/guardian of a pupil who is eligible for transportation services under the law may sign a written statement waiving the pupil's right to those services. This written statement shall be in the form that is determined by the Department of Education.

If there is a case of a family or economic hardship during the school year in which the parent/guardian has waived the pupil's transportation service rights, the district will make provisions to provide transportation to the pupil during this hardship.

Courtesy Transportation Along Hazardous Routes

The Kittatinny Regional Board is concerned with the safety of students who walk to and from school along roadways determined to be hazardous routes. The CSA shall work in conjunction with municipal officials to determine the criteria necessary for the classification of a hazardous route and shall maintain a list of all hazardous routes in the district. The CSA shall develop rules and regulations to supply courtesy transportation for students who must walk to and from school along routes designated by the Kittatinny Regional School District to be hazardous routes. The criteria used to determine hazardous routes may include but shall not be limited to the following:

- A. Population density;
- B. Traffic volume;
- C. Average vehicle velocity;
- D. Existence or absence of sufficient sidewalk space;
- E. Roads and highways that are winding or have blind curves;
- F. Roads or highways with steep inclines and declines;
- G. Drop-offs that are close proximity to a sidewalk;
- H. Bridges or overpasses that must be crossed to reach the school;
- I. Train tracks or trestles that must be crossed to reach the school;
- J. Busy roads and highways that must be crossed to reach the school.

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Students who would otherwise be required to walk to and from school along routes designated as hazardous shall be included in the calculation of the district's regular vehicle capacity utilization.

Key Words

Pupil Transportation, Transportation, Busing, Buses, Courtesy Busing, Nonpublic School Pupils, Student Transportation

Legal References:

- N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-25 Transportation aid
 - N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
 - N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.6 Transportation (budget line item)
 - N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-13 Transportation services (charter schools)
 - N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. Transportation To and From Schools
 - See particularly:
 - N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.2 through -1.9
 - N.J.S.A. 18A:46-19.6 Transportation to location or maintenance of vehicular classrooms to obtain services; payment of cost
 - N.J.S.A. 18A:46-23 Transportation of pupils; special classes; handicapped children; state aid
 - N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.9 et al. New Jersey Commercial Drivers License Act
 - N.J.S.A. 39:3-27 Free registration of certain vehicles; transfer to other motor vehicles
 - N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1et seq. Student Transportation
 - See particularly:
 - N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1(b), -2.1, -3.1, -5.1, -6.2, -6.3, -6.4, -9.1(e), -11.1, -13.3
 - N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
- Parents for Student Safety, Inc., v. Morris Bd. of Ed., 1986 S.L.D. (February 5), St. Bd. rev'g 1984 S.L.D. (August 24), aff'd App. Div., unreported decision (docket no. A-3257-85-T7, decided February 17, 1987) certif. den. 108 N.J. 180 (1987)

Wayne Board of Education v. Kraft et al., 139 NJ 597 (1995)
Policies and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation, N.J. State Department of Education

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts

Possible

- Cross References:
- *3220/3230 State funds; federal funds
 - *3516 Safety
 - *3541.31 Privately owned vehicles
 - *3541.33 Transportation safety
 - *4211 Recruitment, selection and hiring
 - *5200 Nonpublic school pupils
 - *6145 Extracurricular activities
 - *6153 Field trips

* Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual
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