



NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

3541

Pupil Transportation

The Board of Education will provide transportation for students under provisions of state law and regulations. In determining the provision of transportation, the Superintendent of Schools shall consider the guidelines contained in this policy and shall administer the operation so as to:

1. Provide for the safety of students.
2. Supplement and reinforce desirable student behavior patterns.
3. Assist disabled students appropriately.

A. Transportation Privileges.

Transportation will be provided for resident public school students K-12 and eligible private school students, as mandated by state law, who live beyond these distance limits from school as measured by the shortest routes over town roads:

Grades K-5	1 mile
Grades 6-12	1.5 miles

The above limits are also maximum walking distances between home and bus stop.

Transportation will be provided within the above limits when an extreme safety hazard is determined to exist.

Extreme safety hazard is defined as an unsafe thing or condition presenting difficulties or problems, the solution of which is beyond the ordinary capability of a child at a specific age.

B. Appeal Procedure.

In cases of appeal, the superintendent of schools or his/her designee shall conduct a thorough investigation and shall provide for the Board of Education's consideration satisfactory evidence that no extreme safety hazard exists. Each appeal will be handled individually and independently, and proper consideration will be given to the age(s) and capability (ies) of the student(s) involved and to the condition(s) which was the cause for the petition.

C. After School Activities.

The purpose of after school activity transportation is not to deliver the students door to door but to drop them off in the vicinity of their homes hereby relieving their parents of several miles of driving to the school. This transportation is voluntary and it is the parents' responsibility to pick up their students at the appropriate bus stop.

D. Applicability and Exceptions.

1. This policy is applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
2. Special Education pupils and pupils eligible for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act shall be judged on an individual basis, and appropriate transportation provided.
3. The Board of Education may grant an exception to any guideline set forth in this policy where a peculiar condition or combination of conditions renders such condition(s) a hazard based upon reasonable judgment; or where under the circumstances, other conditions exist under which the safety of students necessitates a variance with the guidelines within this policy.

E. Complaint Procedure.

All complaints concerning school transportation safety shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a written record of all such complaints, and shall conduct appropriate investigations of the allegations in a timely manner. The Superintendent shall provide to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, within thirty days of the end of the school year, a copy of the written record of complaints that were received during the previous twelve-month period.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education
- 10-220 Duties of boards of education
- 10-221c Development of policy for reporting complaints regarding school transportation safety
- 14-275b Transportation of mobility impaired students
- 14-275c Regulations re: school buses and motor vehicles used to transport special Education students

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1. Definitions

- (a) "School transportation" means the procedure and program, or implemented plan by which a pupil is conveyed to or from his/her residence to or from the school in which s/he is enrolled by the Board of Education at public expense, 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 C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
 - (b) "Walking distance" means the linear measure of 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 road or highway nearest the pupil's residence to a point at the entrance of the school, or the bus pick-up area, or a safe entrance to the school grounds; or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus, or vehicle, embarkation point established by the Board of Education.
 - (c) "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, but not more than 5,380 feet.
 - (d) "One and one half mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 7,920 feet, but not more than 8,020 feet.
 - (e) "Extreme safety hazard" means an unsafe thing or condition presenting difficulties or problems the solution of which is beyond the ordinary capability of a child of a given age or attainment.
 - (f) "Walk area" means a portion of the right of way at least three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes, which may be paved or unpaved.
 - (g) "Grade K" means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning pupil.
2. In cases of appeals, the superintendent of schools shall furnish to the Board of Education evidence satisfactory to the Board of Education that reasonable and desirable transportation has been furnished every eligible pupil according to its policy.
 3. Reasonable transportation or prescribed walking routes or the sum of both shall not exceed one hour each way from home to school or returning.

4. In cases of appeal, the superintendent of schools shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the Board of Education that no pupil has been denied transportation when such Board has been aware of the existence of a hazard of such severity as to be judged dangerous, according to the following standards:
 - 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 miles per hour which do not have safety provisions at points where pupils must cross in 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 normal children.
 - b. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or walk areas shall be deemed extremely hazardous unless all of the following conditions exist:
 - (1) There exists no line-of-sight obstruction caused by a hill, curve, structure, out-cropping, land form, planting, snow bank, or other obscuring object 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 permits vehicular breaking/stopping distances in accordance with the Connecticut Drivers Manual;
 - (3) The traffic count is less than sixty vehicles during the time that pupils are walking to or from school;
 - (4) Man-made hazards including attractive nuisances are absent.
 - c. 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 pupil and the water.
 - d. 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.
 - e. Any street, road, walkway or path designated as a walking route for school pupils which passes through an area which has a history of aggressive acts or molestation resulting in actual or threaten physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when pupils ordinarily walk to or from school shall be deemed hazardous.
 - f. A situation shall be considered unduly hazardous wherein a board of education requires a pupil under age fourteen, or enrolled in a grade K through 8 to walk to or from school at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise or after one-half hour after sunset.

5. Students with physical handicaps will be appropriately transported with the presentation of a 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.

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