

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Board of Education affirms its goal of providing a safe and economical transportation system for district students. Transportation shall be provided at district expense to those students who are eligible as established under Education Law, and authorized through voter approval.

It is the intent of the Board of Education to comply with the letter and spirit of the New York State Education Law, the regulations of the Department of Motor Vehicles and of the Department of Transportation, and with the Commissioner of Education's regulations and decisions pertinent to student transportation. These shall govern any questions not covered by specific regulations or policy.

The safe transportation of students to and from school is of primary concern. All state laws and regulations pertaining to the safe operation of school buses shall be observed by drivers, students and school personnel.

The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall have the responsibility to promulgate procedures governing student safety regulations, establishment of bus routes and bus stops, and the provision and maintenance of required services.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

All eligible public elementary school students in elementary and middle school residing one-half mile or more from the school serving the attendance area, or such school as the board of education may designate, will be transported to/from that school. (Eligible students residing less than one-half mile from an established bus stop may be required to walk to/from the bus stop.)

All eligible public school students in high school residing more than one and one-half miles from the high school serving the attendance area, or such school as the board of education may designate, will be transported to/from that school. (Eligible students residing less than one and one-half miles from an established bus stop may be required to walk to/from the bus stop.)

Measurement to establish transportation distance limitations is to be accomplished by several District selected mapping technologies, followed by the use of a district vehicle if the distance is in question, from the nearest property line of the home to the designated "node" of the school over the most direct (shortest) public road which could be used by students.

### **TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Special transportation for disabled students will be provided, as approved by the board of education, upon the recommendation of the committee on special education.

Students with disabilities in the District shall be transported up to fifty (50) miles (one way) from their home to the appropriate special service or program, unless the Commissioner certifies that no appropriate nonresidential special service or program is available within fifty (50) miles. The Commissioner may then establish transportation arrangements.

### **REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The parent/guardian of a parochial/private school student residing in the school district who desires transportation to a parochial/private school during the next school year must submit a written request to the transportation supervisor no later than April 1 of the preceding year, or within thirty (30) days of establishing residency in the district. No late request from a parent or guardian shall be denied when a reasonable explanation is provided for the delay, and no additional expense is incurred by the district.

The board of education will not provide transportation to a private/parochial school at a distance greater than fifteen miles from the student's residence unless required by law.

### **TRANSPORTATION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS**

Non-resident families must provide their own transportation.

### **TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS**

Where the District has provided transportation to students enrolled in the District to a school sponsored field trip, extracurricular activity, or any other similar event, it shall provide transportation back to either the point of departure or to the appropriate school in the District, unless the parent or guardian of a student participating in such event has provided the District with written notice, consistent with District policy, authorizing an alternative form of return transportation for such student, or unless intervening circumstances make such transportation impractical. In cases where intervening circumstances make transportation of a student back to the point of departure or to the appropriate school in the District impractical, a representative of the School District shall remain with the student until such student's parent or legal guardian has been contacted and informed of the intervening circumstances which make such transportation impractical and the student has been delivered to his/her parent or legal guardian.

**TRANSPORTATION IN PERSONAL VEHICLES**

Personal cars of teachers and staff shall not be used to transport students except in the event of extenuating circumstances, when authorized by the administration, and where parent permission has been given. When such circumstances exist, the driver must be accompanied by a second adult, and approved seatbelt/car seats must be used, per Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 142 and Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213. When personal cars are used to transport students, the vehicle owner's insurance is primary, and the district's insurance is secondary.

**USE OF VIDEO CAMERAS ON SCHOOL BUSES**

Video cameras may be used to monitor student behavior on school buses transporting students to and from school or extracurricular activities.

Education Law Sections 1604, 1709, 1804, 1903, 1950,  
2503, 2554, 2590-e, 3621(15), 3623-a(2c), 3635,  
Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 375(20)(1) and 375(21-i)  
Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 142 and Federal Motor  
Vehicle Safety Standard 213

**Adopted: September 3, 2008**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Revision: October 18, 2017**  
**Adopted: November 1, 2017**