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8600 - **TRANSPORTATION**

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide transportation for those students whose distance from their school makes this service necessary within the limitations established by State law. Such laws and rules shall govern any question not covered by this policy.

School buses shall be purchased, housed, and maintained by the Board for the transportation of resident students between their home areas and the schools of the District to which they are assigned or to their nonpublic or community schools. The Superintendent may substitute smaller buses for reasons of economy or efficiency of operation.

Children living beyond the following walking limits shall be entitled to bus transportation:

- A. Kindergarten through Grade 5 - 1 mile
- B. Grades 1 through 6 - 1.5 miles
- C. Grades 7 through 12 - 2 miles

Exceptions to the foregoing limits may be made in the case of a temporarily or permanently-disabled child who has been so certified by a physician and in the case of adverse safety conditions. Transportation for students who are not entitled to transportation under State law will not be reduced after the start of the school year.

Transportation of eligible vocational or special education children between their home areas and schools outside the District shall be arranged through the use of Board-owned vehicles, through cooperation with other districts, through commercial carriers, and/or by other means in the most efficient and economical manner. The governing authority of a community school shall provide or arrange for transportation free of charge for any eligible special education student enrolled in the community school for whom the student's individualized education program specifies transportation.

Transportation to and from school shall be provided for each student residing in the District and attending a State-chartered nonpublic school on the same basis as established for resident students as set forth above, subject to the following limitation. Transportation will only be provided if it requires thirty (30) minutes or less of direct travel by a school bus during normal travel times as measured from the school building to which the student would be assigned in the District. Transportation shall be provided each day in which the nonpublic school is open with students in attendance (excluding Saturdays and Sundays except by agreement between the entities entered into by July 1st in any year). Chartered nonpublic school students who are transported by the Board may be assigned to ride on buses upon which resident students are also assigned. **Notwithstanding the above, the District will provide transportation as a related service to students with disabilities who live in the District and attend a nonpublic school if the School District is provided with supporting documentation from the child's individualized education program ("IEP") or an individual service plan ("ISP") developed by the county board of developmental disabilities pursuant to RC 5126.41 for county residents who receive supported living services.**

Furthermore, transportation to and from school shall be provided for each native student (i.e., student entitled to attend school in the District under R.C. 3313.64 or R.C. 3313.65) attending a chartered community school for each day in which the school is open and students are in attendance (excluding Saturdays and Sundays except by agreement between the entities entered into by July 1st each year). However, if that community school is located outside the District, the Board will only provide transportation if it requires thirty (30) minutes or less of direct travel by a school bus during normal travel times as measured from the school building to which the student would be assigned in the District. Native students attending an approved community school located within the District will be provided transportation on the same basis as established for resident students set forth above. Students transported to an approved community school may be assigned to ride on buses upon which resident students are also assigned.

Transportation of eligible nonpublic or community school children between their home areas and schools shall be arranged through the use of District-owned vehicles, through cooperation with other districts, through commercial carriers, and/or by other means in the most efficient and economical manner. The Board will not provide or arrange for transportation of students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade using mass transit system vehicles unless the Board and the community/nonpublic school have entered into an agreement authorizing this mode of transportation which is approved by both entities in advance. Students enrolled in ninth grade or above may be transported on vehicles operated by a mass transit system provided that the route does not require more than one transfer.

Upon receipt from the community/nonpublic school of the official start and end times of school for the upcoming year, the District will develop and provide a transportation plan which includes transportation routes and schedules for eligible students. The plan will be provided within sixty (60) days after receiving the start and end time, or when possible by the first day of August in the event the Board is not notified of start and end times by the deadline of April 1st. For eligible students who enroll after July 1st but before the

start of the school year, a transportation plan will be developed within fourteen (14) business days after receiving a request for transportation. The transportation plan provided to community/nonpublic schools pursuant to this policy and State law is tentative and subject to change.

The Superintendent may determine that it is impractical to transport a student to a community or nonpublic school after considering the factors enumerated under State law. The determination for payment-in-lieu will be made at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the District's first day of student instruction, or no later than fourteen (14) calendar days if a student is enrolled less than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of instruction or after the start of the school year, and must be formalized through a resolution passed by the Board at its next scheduled meeting. If transportation is determined to be impracticable, the Board will issue a letter to the student's parent/guardian, the community or nonpublic school, and the ~~Department of Education~~ ~~State Board of Education~~ detailing the reason(s) why the determination was made. Parent(s)/guardians shall be provided payment-in-lieu of transportation at the amount established by State law, unless otherwise directed by action of the ~~Department of Education~~ ~~State Board of Education~~. Parents/guardians may authorize the community or nonpublic school where their student is enrolled to act on their behalf at any time after requesting transportation.

The Board will not be required to provide transportation for any native student enrolled in a community school if the Board has entered into an agreement with the governing authority of the community school that designates the community school as responsible for providing or arranging the transportation of the District's native students to and from the community school and is certified by the ~~Department of Education~~ ~~State Board of Education~~ as having met certain requirements established by State law. The governing authority of a community school must provide or arrange for transportation in a manner that is comparable to the transportation that the District provides or arranges for its native students of the same grade level and distance from school who are enrolled in the District. Also, the governing authority must provide or arrange for the transportation under such agreement free of charge for each of its enrolled students who are eligible to be transported in accordance with R.C. 3327.01 or who would otherwise be transported by the District under the District's transportation policy. If the Board enters into an agreement with the governing authority regarding the transportation of the District's native students, the ~~State Board of Education~~ ~~Department of Education~~ shall make payments to the community school in accordance with the terms of the agreement for each student actually transported.

Likewise, the Board ~~is not required to provide~~ ~~will not be responsible for providing~~ transportation for any native student enrolled in an approved community school if the governing authority of the community school submits a written notification to the Board, by a date prescribed by the ~~Department of Education~~ ~~State Board of Education~~, stating that the governing authority will accept responsibility for providing or arranging for the transportation of the District's native students to and from the community school. The governing authority's unilateral acceptance of the responsibility to provide transportation must cover the entire school year, and shall remain in effect for subsequent school years unless the governing authority submits written notification to the Board relinquishing the transportation responsibility. However, the governing authority cannot relinquish the transportation responsibility before the end of the school year, and shall submit such notice by a date prescribed by the ~~State Board of Education~~ ~~Department of Education~~ in order to allow the District a reasonable period of time to prepare for the transportation of its native students enrolled in the community school. If the governing authority unilaterally accepts the transportation responsibility, the ~~State Board of Education~~ ~~Department of Education~~ shall make payments to the community school for each student actually transported calculated in accordance with existing State law governing the calculation of transportation payments to the District from the State and any rules implemented by the ~~State Board of Education~~ ~~Department of Education~~ and that otherwise would be paid to the District.

Bus routes shall be established so that an authorized bus stop is available within reasonable walking distance of the home of every transported resident student. ~~The Board shall approve the bus routes and time schedule annually no more than ten (10) days after the start of the school year.~~ ~~The Board shall approve the bus routes annually.~~ The Superintendent is authorized to make any necessary changes in the approved route and shall inform the Board at the next regular meeting.

The Board authorizes the installation and use of video recording devices in the school buses to assist the drivers in providing for the safety and well-being of the students while on a bus.

The Board authorizes the use of a van designed to carry nine (9) passengers or less plus a driver instead of a school bus to transport students to a chartered nonpublic or community school if all of the following apply:

- A the number of students in the vehicle does not exceed nine (9);
- B the District regularly transports students to that chartered nonpublic or community school;
- C the driver has a valid driver's license, is accustomed to driving the vehicle, and meets statutory and administrative requirements for a bus or motor van driver (with the exception of having a commercial driver's license);
- D the driver may not stop on the roadway to load or unload passengers;
- E the driver and all passengers are expected to comply with State laws regarding child and occupant restraint devices and safety while in the motor vehicle.

Vans will be inspected not less than two (2) times each year by a qualified mechanic who will determine whether the van is safe to transport students.

Students meeting the Federal definition of homeless will be transported from their temporary place of residence to their school of assignment, at the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied minor, to the same extent as all other students of the District and consistent with this Policy. If the homeless student's temporary residence is located outside the boundaries of the District, the Liaison for Homeless Children will coordinate with the Director of Transportation to contact the district in which the student temporarily resides to arrange for joint transportation of the student and to seek inter-district agreement on a method for apportioning the cost of such joint transportation. In no event will a homeless student be denied enrollment based on issues related to student transportation.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and implementing appropriate administrative guidelines for this policy.

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Legal

A.C. 3301-51-10, 3301-83-01 et seq., 3301-83-08

R.C. 3313.66, 3314.09, 3314.091, 3319.41, 3327.01 et seq., 4511.01 (F)

R.C. 4511.75 et seq.

42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

Last Modified by Regina Jutz on October 12, 2023