

5400 TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**5402 TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS**

Transportation for students shall be provided in accordance with law and District policy.

The District may contract for school bus services for transportation of students to and from school at regularly scheduled hours and for field trips and extracurricular activities in accordance with Policy Nos. 5405, 5415 and 5420.

The District shall provide transportation for students living within the prescribed limits when walking conditions to the school are found to be hazardous by the Department of Transportation.

The District shall transport handicapped students without regard to distance or hazardous walking conditions in accordance with the student's individualized education plan (IEP).

The District shall transport eligible resident students who are enrolled in nonpublic schools within the distance prescribed by law.

Except otherwise provided herein or by applicable law, the District shall transport eligible students to their primary residence, as defined pursuant to District Policy No. 10102. In cases where shared or split custody is involved, the District shall abide by the custody agreement or order to determine a student's primary residence, where applicable.

When no such agreement or order exists, or where a custody order does not address the student's residence for school purposes, the parent or guardian shall specify in writing the student's primary residence for transportation and attendance purposes.

Attendance Areas

As part of the District's transportation responsibility, the District will transport students to and from their residence or care provider/babysitter providing the care provider/babysitter is located within the student's assigned elementary school's attendance area.

Buses will not be re-routed outside of an elementary school's attendance area in order to transport students to or from a daycare facility or babysitter.

Bus Stop Assignment Change

During the school year, all requests for changes in student transportation should be submitted in writing to the building principal at least three (3) school days in advance of the requested change.

Parents/Guardians must submit an official written request on the district form to the building principal's office. The request must be approved by the Director of Transportation.

Parents/Guardians must assume responsibility for their child after discharge at the requested stop and provide assurances to the administration's satisfaction that the student would not be placed in a dangerous situation.

Emergency Situations

Changing a student's bus stop in emergency situations will be handled on a case-by case basis. An emergency is defined as: a serious situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly and demands immediate action. Changes to an assigned bus stop due to an emergency situation should happen infrequently. Such changes will not be honored on a frequent (monthly or weekly) basis. The following will not be accepted as emergencies: short-term childcare arrangements, birthday parties, personal appointments, visiting friends, or other matters of convenience. Accommodations can only be provided when there is available space on a particular bus. In the event of an emergency, the parent or guardian should contact the school office in order to arrange for their child to be dropped off at an alternate approved bus stop on an established bus route. The office will notify the transportation office of the emergency arrangement.

Requests are for no less than five (5) days per week.

Granting of such requests will be considered as temporary and subject to new stops or overloads created as a result. The request will be terminated should space be required to seat additional students legitimately assigned on the basis of address or if the student violates any of the Board-approved bus regulations.

Student Discipline

The school bus driver shall be responsible for the discipline of students while they are being transported. The school bus driver shall immediately notify the building principal of any disciplinary infraction.

The principal may suspend a student from bus transportation for disciplinary reasons, and the parents/guardians shall be responsible for the student's transportation.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible to:

1. Establish administrative regulations that specify the number of chaperones to accompany students in connection with school-related activities and field trips.

2. Prepare a district map or schedule indicating each bus stop and bus route.

3. Maintain records and make required reports regarding school transportation.

4. Distribute rules governing student conduct during transport; such rules shall be binding on all students transported by the district.

Legal References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1331, 1361, 1362, 1365, 1366, 1374, 2541, 2542

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 15.1 et seq., 23.1, 23.2, 23.3, 23.4, 23.6

State Department of Transportation Regulations – 67 PA Code Sec. 212.101, 447.1 et seq.

Transportation of Individuals with Disabilities, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations – 49 CFR Part 37, Part 38

Adoption Date -

Revised -

Practice -

Legal Reference -

Cross Reference -