

Mullica Township School

Policy 3541.1

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND SERVICES

The board of education directs the superintendent to supervise development of bus routes to provide safe, economical, and reasonably expeditious transportation for:

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

The criteria to be used in designing routes and assigning students 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.

Transportation to and from school shall be provided as required by law to eligible nonpublic school students and to students attending charter schools. If transportation is not offered to nonpublic students aid in lieu of transportation will be available. All students riding on district buses shall be required to observe the district's bus conduct regulations or risk loss of the privilege of such transportation.

On a space-available basis, the board may transport both public and nonpublic students who live within statutory limits (courtesy busing). The board or a cooperative transportation services agency may charge for this service. The charge shall be equitable and shall include, but not be limited to, the cost of fuel, driver salaries and insurance.

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 student who is eligible for transportation services under the law may sign a written statement waiving the student'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 student's transportation service rights, the district will make provisions to provide transportation to the student during this hardship.

Courtesy Transportation Along Hazardous Routes

The Mullica Township Board of Education is concerned with the safety of students who walk to and from school along roadways determined to be hazardous routes. The superintendent 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 superintendent shall develop rules and regulations to supply courtesy transportation for students who must walk to and from school along routes designated by the Mullica Township Board of Education 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.

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.

Transportation of Disabled Students

The board of education shall provide transportation services for students with special needs in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1, and with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). The Board will provide transportation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1 as a related service for a student with special needs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.9(a)7. Such transportation services may include, but are not limited to, special transportation equipment, transportation aides, and special arrangements for other assistance to and from school.

When an out-of-district placement for educational reasons is made, transportation shall be provided consistent with the school calendar of the receiving school. A copy of the school calendar shall be submitted to the resident district by May 15 preceding the year in which transportation is required, or at the time of placement if it occurs after May 15.

When necessary, the student's case manager shall provide the transportation coordinator or responsible staff member and the bus driver with specific information about the student including safety concerns, mode of communication, and health and behavioral characteristics of a student for whom transportation services are to be provided.

Students with special needs below the age of five shall be transported in vehicles equipped with safety belts or other child restraint systems, in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations.

The transportation of students with special needs to special education programs approved by the board and located outside the State will conform to guidelines established by the New Jersey State Department of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2(c)1.

State aid will be sought for the services provided in accordance with law and this policy. The board directs that appropriate records be maintained, and all relevant documentation be preserved in order that the district be properly reimbursed for the costs of transportation.

Key Words

Student Transportation, Transportation, Busing, Buses, Courtesy Busing, Nonpublic School Students, Student Transportation, Disabled Students

Legal

N.J.S.A. 18A 7F-57: Calculation of State aid for transportation.

N.J.S.A. 18A 22-8 Hazardous route transportation cost (budget line item)

N.J.S.A. 18A 36A-13 Transportation for students

N.J.S.A. 18A 39-1c: Waiver for pupil transportation services under certain circumstances

N.J.S.A. 18A 39-1.2: Provision of transportation for certain pupils; contracts; charges, method of collection

N.J.S.A. 18A 39-1.5: Adoption of policy regarding transportation of students who walk along hazardous routes

N.J.S.A. 18A 39-19.1 Bus drivers required to submit certain information to commissioner; notice of pending charges

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 children with disabilities; State aid.

N.J.S.A. 39 3-10.9 et seq: New Jersey Commercial Driver License Act

N.J.S.A. 39 3-27: Registration fee not charged for certain vehicles

N.J.A.C. 6A 27-11.1 et seq Emergency procedures

N.J.A.C. 6A 27-1.1 et seq Scope

N.J.A.C. 6A 27-1.5 Students who may be transported

N.J.A.C. 6A 27-2.1 et seq General provisions

N.J.A.C. 6A 30-1.1 Purpose and scope

Parents for Student Safety, Inc., v. Morris Bd. of Ed., 1986 S.L.D. (February 5)

Policies and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation

Wayne Board of Education v. Kraft et al. 139 NJ 597 (1995)