

## SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

### **General**

The Board of Education shall provide for the public schools an appropriate transportation system, within guidelines set forth in this policy, which will enable all qualified children of school age to be transported to schools as required. School bus transportation is for students only. The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for the school transportation system and shall develop and administer it to:

- A. Provide maximum safety of students.
- B. Supplement and reinforce desirable student behavior patterns.
- C. Assist handicapped students appropriately.
- D. Enrich the instructional program through carefully planned field trips recommended by the staff.

The transportation system shall be planned and operated in compliance with the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and all regulations of the State Department of Education and the State Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the operation of school buses and motor vehicles.

Transportation by private carrier or through direct owned buses shall be provided at the discretion of the Board of Education. Parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible students whenever such practice is more economical or convenient.

### Duties of the Superintendent

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools or designee to manage and supervise the school transportation service and, in connection therewith, to do the following:

- A. Determine eligibility for school transportation in accordance with these guidelines and Section 10-186 of the General Statutes and in compliance with applicable portions of the No Child Left Behind Act pertaining to homeless students and school choice.
- B. Establish school transportation routes and designate locations for pick-up points (bus stops). The Superintendent shall direct the establishment of bus routes to provide the safest, shortest routes as economically as possible. Routes shall equalize, as nearly as possible, the length of routes and bus loads as close to bus capacity as possible and shall provide student transportation to and from schools within prescribed time limits.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION (continued...)

**Duties of the Superintendent**

- C. Develop, circulate and enforce codes of behavior for those children who are transported to and from school via school transportation.
- D. Develop procedures for responding to requests pertaining to matters of school transportation or other school accommodations.
- E. Give due consideration to requests for extension of school transportation service.
- F. Perform all other duties and responsibilities related to the furnishing of school accommodations by school transportation or otherwise in a manner consistent with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes or these guidelines.

(cf. 3541.3 Routes and Services)

(cf. 3541.35 Safety Complaints Records and Reports)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-76d Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services. State agency placements; apportionment of costs. Relationship of insurance to special education costs.
- 10-97 Transportation to vocational schools.
- 10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board.
- 10-187 Appeal from finding of hearing board.
- 10-220 Duties of boards of education.
- 10-221 Development of policy for reporting complaints re school transportation safety. Reporting of accidents at school bus stops.
- 10-220c Transportation of children over private roads. Immunity from liability.
- 10-273a et seq. Reimbursement for transportation to and from elementary and secondary schools.
- 10-280a Transportation for students in non-profit private schools outside school district.
- 10-281 Transportation for students in non-profit private schools within school district.
- Chapter 248 Vehicle Highway Use
- 20 U.S.C. NCLB Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Title I, Section 1116.

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**Transportation**

The Board of Education will, in a manner not inconsistent with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes, furnish by transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child over five and under twenty-one years of age who resides within the jurisdiction of the Board and is not a graduate of high school or vocational school (or who is not otherwise legally excluded from school) may attend the public schools maintained by the Board pursuant to Section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

1. Definitions

- A. **“School transportation”** means the procedure, program or fully effective and implemented plan by which a student is conveyed, at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract to and from his/her residence to or from the school in which he/she is enrolled by the Board.
- B. **“Walking distance”** means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student’s residence and his/her school from a point at the curb or edge of a public road or highway nearest the student’s residence to the nearest allowable access of the school, or the bus pickup area; or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus (or vehicle) embarkation point (bus stop) established by the Board.
- 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.
- D. **“Grade K”** means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning student under the age of six.
- E. **“Raised walk area”** means (1) a sidewalk or (2) a portion of the right of the right of way at least three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes, which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area, and fencing, apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
- F. **“Walking route”** means the most direct route which the child would normally be expected to travel between his/her residence and the school to which he/she is assigned by the Board.
- G. **“Hazard”** means (1) exposure to molestation considered morally degrading or physically harmful, or (2) an unsafe thing or condition or a possible source of peril, danger, duress, or difficulty presenting a problem, the solution of which is beyond the ordinary capability of a child of a given age.

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2. Duties of the Superintendent

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools or designee to manage and supervise the school transportation service and, in connection therewith, to do the following:

- A. Determine eligibility for school transportation in accordance with these guidelines and Section 10-186 of the General Statutes and in compliance with applicable portions of the No Child Left Behind Act pertaining to homeless students and school choice.
- B. Establish school transportation routes and designate locations for pick-up points (bus stops).
- C. Develop, circulate and enforce codes of behavior for those students who are transported to and from school via school transportation.
- D. Develop procedures for responding to requests pertaining to matters of school transportation or other school accommodations.
- E. Give due consideration to requests for extension of school transportation service.
- F. Perform all other duties and responsibilities related to the furnishing of school accommodations by school transportation or otherwise in a manner not consistent with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes or these guidelines.

3. Eligibility of School Transportation

Students will be eligible for school transportation if one or more of the following criteria is present:

- A. The walking distance for the student is in excess of the guidelines established by the Board which shall not exceed the following maximum distances:
  - 1. For students enrolled in the equivalent of grades 7 through 8, up to one and one-half (1-1/2) miles; and
  - 2. For students enrolled in grades 9 through 12, up to two (2) miles.
- B. The walking route does not exceed the limits set forth in paragraph (2), but presents a hazard; and the hazard is not eliminated by and abated by the Board.
- C. The student is physically handicapped or otherwise disabled and the 504 team accommodations or PPT determine the need for specialized transportation.

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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. Eligibility for Out-of-Town Transportation

- A. Any resident of the school district under twenty-one years of age who is not a high school or vocational school graduate and who is attending a state vocational school shall be eligible for transportation.
- B. A student who is placed by a Planning and Placement Team for special education reasons in either a public or private educational institution out-of-town shall be provided the necessary transportation.
- C. A student who attends an in-district charter or magnet school. The district is not required to provide transportation for students attending out-of-district charter or magnet schools.

5. Appeals

Any parent, guardian, student at majority, or any agent or officer whose duty it is to compel the observance of the laws concerning attendance at school may appeal any administrative decision concerning school transportation in the following manner:

- A. Discuss the matter with the Principal of the school to which the student is assigned.
- B. If no resolution is reached under (1) above, discuss the matter with the Coordinator of Transportation or designee.
- C. If no resolution is reached under (2) above, discuss the matter with the Superintendent of Schools.

Any parent, guardian, student at majority, or officer whose duty it is to compel the observance of the laws concerning attendance at school, who believes that the Superintendent, or his/her designee, is not furnishing school accommodations, by transportation or otherwise, to himself or herself or to his/her child in a manner consistent with the laws of the State of Connecticut or these regulations may, in writing, request a hearing before the Board to show the Board the manner in which the Superintendent has so failed to furnish such accommodations.

The Board shall hold a hearing within ten (10) days following receipt of such request.

The hearing before the Board will be in compliance with the provisions of Section 4-177 to 4-180 inclusive of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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5. Appeals (continued...)

A stenographic record or tape recording shall be made of such hearing.

6. Routes and Services

Bus routes shall not overlap unless absolutely necessary. When more than one bus travels on an arterial highway, each bus shall be assigned a certain portion of the route and all children within this section shall ride the bus to which they are assigned. Only one bus shall cover one particular road unless overloading occurs.

Copies of each official route shall be made prior to the opening of school. One copy shall be sent to the bus contractor and one to the building administrator of the school. The official bus route shall not be extended or changed until such proposed change has been checked to determine whether it meets all rules and regulations pertaining to safety, efficiency and economy.

Students shall not be allowed off the bus until they reach their approved destination.

School transportation services are provided exclusively for the benefit and safety of the student population, and are to be used only in support of programs authorized by and under the auspices of the school Board.

Children may ride buses other than their own only at the convenience of the school district in accordance with bus safety regulations. A written request must be submitted by the parent to the Principal of the school for his/her official approval each time a child is to take a bus other than his/her regular one.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-76d re transportation for special education program services.

10-97 Transportation to vocational schools.

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance.

Hearings. Appeal to state board. Establishment of hearing board.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-220c Transportation of children over private roads. Immunity from liability.

10-273a Reimbursement for transportation to and from elementary and secondary schools.

10-280a Transportation for students in non-profit private schools outside school district.

10-281 Transportation for students in non-profit private schools with district.

14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when.

14.275b Transportation of handicapped students.

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Legal References (continued...)

14-275c Regulations re school buses and motor vehicles used to transport special education students.

14-280 Letters and signals to be concealed when not used in transporting children. Signs on other vehicles.

20 U.S.C. NCLB Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Title I, Section 1116

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, 42 U.S.C., Sections 11431-11435