

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

General Operating Policy:

Centralized bus routing is set up by the transportation department with final confirmation coming from the Superintendent, subject to review by the Board. Routes will be developed annually and posted. A bus stop so established will be designated as authorized when the School Board has approved its designation as such.

Pupils attending private schools shall be entitled to the same transportation privileges within the District as are provided for pupils in public school. Only those pupils who meet eligibility requirements by means of residence and membership will be permitted to use school bus transportation for the purpose of travel to and from school. Band instruments, projects and other objects cannot take up pupil seating space or block the aisles. The District will take no responsibility for personal items which may be damaged, lost or stolen during normal bus route rides.

Drivers may not load or unload pupils at other than authorized bus stops. The bus must follow the route as designated unless the Principal or Transportation Manager requests or recommends a change. Parents may request a stop change by filling out the proper forms and sending them to the Transportation Manager. Bus routes must follow state maintained highways, municipal streets or other streets with publicly dedicated right of ways, unless road conditions or other factors make this inadvisable. Unless the bus stop is at a point where pedestrian and vehicular traffic are controlled by adequate stop and go traffic signals, school officials may not route a school bus or authorize a driver to stop and receive or discharge passengers on a divided highway, unless the stop is a door-side stop. The Transportation Manager is responsible for assigning students to specific buses. Students may not ride any bus other than the one to which they are assigned without prior permission being filed with the Principal's office. As a matter of accountability, students will normally be dropped-off in the afternoon at the same stop where they were picked-up in the morning. Students may be transported to locations other than their homes if certain criteria are met and the new assignment does not interfere with the proper administration of their school or with the safe and efficient transportation by school bus of other students enrolled in the school.

Bus Stops: The board subscribes to state statutes and guidelines regarding the location of bus stops. With oversight by the Superintendent, transportation staff shall implement this strategy in cooperation with the appropriate administrative authority at the local schools.

1. Bus stops are placed no closer than one mile apart unless safety hazards exist.
2. Buses are routed on state and town roads only.
3. Buses are generally prohibited from traveling into cul-de-sacs.
4. Recommended walking distances to a bus stop for students are up to one mile unless safety hazards exist.
5. Stops must have space for proper turning radius for a school bus

Service to Day Care Centers and Registered and/or NH State Licensed Child Care Providers: Service to centers and providers may be added when the following criteria are met:

1. Must be located in the base attendance or satellite/draw area of the school served.

2. Must be ample seating space available on the bus.
3. Must be located along an existing established school bus run on state/town maintained roads.
4. Must be of no additional cost to the District.
5. Must be more than 2 miles distance from the school and at least ½ mile from any other established stop. We cannot guarantee door to door service.
6. Request must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent by the student's parent or legal guardian.
7. Daycare staff must be present to load/unload students.
8. Bus cannot enter the daycare property which is considered private property, unless it is designated as a turn around spot or safer procedure by the district.
9. The presence of factors that may endanger the safety of students will be considered when the location of stops is designated.

Requesting a change to the location of a bus stop. Individuals who are not satisfied with the route or the location of the bus stop assigned to their child(ren), may request a change by completing a Transportation Service Request Form and attaching any other pertinent or necessary information. This form should be forwarded to the Transportation Manager who will make a decision within 5 days. If the Transportation Manager's ruling does not satisfy the parent, he/she may appeal the decision in accordance with the Resolution of Conflict's section of this policy.

Buses carrying school children will be considered as extensions of the school situation, and any pupil whose conduct on a school bus is improper or jeopardizes the safety of other pupils may be suspended **from the bus to and/or from school** as outlined in Policy JFCC. Uniform rules of conduct and disciplinary measures will be enforced.

Student Conduct on School Buses

Bus drivers have the responsibility to maintain orderly behavior of students on school buses and will report in writing misconduct to the Transportation Director. Video cameras may be used on buses to support the bus driver's reports of unacceptable conduct. The Transportation Director will have the authority, delegated by the Superintendent, to suspend the riding privileges of students failing to conform to Board rules and regulations. Parents of children whose conduct on school buses endangers the health, safety and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of school bus riding privileges in accordance with the student discipline code. The Board must approve suspensions of the right to ride the school bus that continue beyond twenty (20) days.

Resolution of Conflicts

Parents who wish to request a change or exemption from any of the Student Transportation policies shall direct that request to the SAU Transportation Director. If the SAU Transportation Director's ruling does not satisfy the parent, he/she may appeal the ruling within five days to the School Business Administrator. If the parent is again not satisfied by the ruling, he/she may appeal to the Superintendent within the next five-day period. As a last appeal, the parent may request to appear before the Board's Transportation Committee which will be formed on an as-needed basis.

Legal References:

RSA 189:6, Transportation of Pupils

RSA 189:6a School Bus Safety
RSA 189:6b Transportation Between Schools and Before and After-School Programs
RSA 189:8, Limitations and Additions
RSA 189:9, Pupils in Private schools
RSA 189:9a, Pupils prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons
RSA 200:40, Emergency Care

FMRSD

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