

Business & Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation

The Board of Education will provide transportation for students as is reasonable and desirable under provisions of state law and regulations. The Superintendent of Schools shall administer the operation so as to:

1. Provide for maximum safety of students.
2. Supplement and reinforce desirable student behavior patterns.
3. Assist students with disabilities as necessary.
4. Enrich the instructional program through carefully planned field trips as recommended by the staff.

Transportation by private carrier may be provided whenever such practice is more economical than using school-district owned facilities. Parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible students whenever such practice is more economical or convenient.

Contracts for transportation approved by this district shall contain assurance that the private contractor will establish a drug and alcohol testing program that meets the requirements of federal regulation. (cf. [4212.42](#) - Drug and alcohol testing for bus drivers)

Federal Compliance

Transportation will be provided for homeless students to and from the school of origin as required by the No Child Left Behind Act. These services shall be provided throughout the regularly scheduled school year and day as determined by the Board.

Transportation will be provided for an eligible student who attends a district school out of the student's attendance area because his/her home school has been identified as in need of improvement, or the student is a victim of a violent criminal offense occurring in or on the grounds of the school the student attends or the student attends a school identified as persistently dangerous.

Transportation may be provided to eligible students who transfer from a district school to an out-of-district school under a cooperative agreement because their home school has been identified as in need of improvement under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-186 Duties of towns and regional school districts

[10-220](#) Duties of boards of education

[14-126a](#) Commissioner to make regulations regarding reporting of school bus accidents

[14-275a](#) Use of standard school bus required, when.

[14-275c](#) Commissioner to make regulations re school busses

Public Act No. 79-331 re markings of vehicles used to transport children. United States Code, Title 49

2717 Alcohol and controlled substance testing (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)

20 U.S.C. NCLB Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Title 1, Section 1116

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

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PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Portland, Connecticut

R3541

Business & Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation

The Board of Education will, in manner not inconsistent with section [10](#)-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes, furnished 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.

I. Definitions

- A. "School Transportation"** means the procedure, program, or fully effective and implemented plan by which a student is conveyed to and/or from the school in which he is enrolled from his/her residents of the bus stop at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over roads approved by the municipality of private roads approved pursuant to C.G.S. Section [10](#)-220c.
- 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 or private road nearest the student's residence to the nearest allowable access to the school or the bus pick up-area, or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus or vehicle embarking point bus stop established by the Board of Education.
- C. "One mile walking distance"** means a reasonable measure of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280 feet.
- D. "Hazard"** means a thing or condition, as prescribed in these guidelines, affecting the safety of the student's walking to and from school, or a designated bus pick-up area; a possible source of peril, danger, duress or difficulty (cf. Webster), exposure to molestation or attack considered morally degrading or physically harmful.
- E. "Raised walk area of sidewalk"** means a portion of the landscaped 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, fencing, apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.

II. Hazardous Conditions

A. The maximum walking distance from home to school or to a prescribed point of embarkment are the following: (1) students enrolled in kindergarten, one-half mile; (2) students enrolled in grades 1 through 6, one mile; (3) students enrolled in grades 7 through 8, one and one-half miles; and (4) students enrolled in grades 9 through 12, one and three-quarters miles. Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of the above distances shall be deemed hazardous.

B. A walking route along a street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area is a hazard when any of the following conditions exist:

1. For students enrolled in grades K through 6, absence of pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and at street crossings where there are no stop signs or crossing guards and the traffic count during the time that students are walking to or from school exceeds 60 vehicles per hour at the intersection.
2. For students enrolled in grades 5 through 12, the absence of a traffic light or stop signs or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect and has a traffic count which exceeds 120 vehicles per hour during the time that students are walking to or from school;
3. For all students, any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty miles per hour which do not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where students must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop;
4. For all students, the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open manholes, construction, snow plowed on the walk area making walkways unusable, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on sidewalks, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking area at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, and the like, including such nuisance is hazardous or attractive to children.

C. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed unduly hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist.

1. For students enrolled in Grades K through 6, any street, road or highway possessing a traffic count of 60 or more vehicles per hour at the time that students are walking to or from school;
2. For all students, the presents of man-made hazards including attractive nuisances, as stated in number 4 above;
3. For all students, any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of twenty-two feet;
4. For all students, any roadway available to vehicles when plowed free of snow accumulations, that does not have a minimum width of twenty feet; and
5. For students enrolled in grades K through 6, any street, road or highway possessing a speed limit in excess of thirty miles per hour;
6. There exists no line-of-sight obstruction caused by a hill, curve, structure, out-cropping, land form, planting, snow bank, or other obscuring object of structure which maybe safely negotiated by vehicles only at speeds under fifteen miles per hour.

D. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when the line-of-sight visibility together with the posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Drivers Manual or Department of Transportation, Division of Design;

E. Any walkway, path, or bridge in an area adjacent of parallel to railroad tracks shall be considered hazardous unless a suitable physical barrier along the entire pedestrian route is present and fixed between students and the tracks; and any crossing of railroad tracks that carry moving trains during hours that students are walking to or from school shall be deemed hazardous unless, (1) a crossing guard is present; or (2) a bar or red flashing signal light is operational.

F. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, waterway, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the student and the water for students in grades K through 6.

G. Any area adjacent to a roadway, walkway, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes, the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier shall be deemed hazardous for students in grades K through 6.

H. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route for school students which passes through an area which has a history of aggressive acts of molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when students ordinarily walk to or from school shall be deemed hazardous.

I. Walking to and from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise of anytime one-half hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous for students in grades K through 8.

III. These guidelines are applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section [10-220c](#).

IV. Students possessing physical handicaps and/or health conditions rendering them unable to walk to either the bus stop or school, as determined by their physician or the school medical advisor, shall receive appropriate transportation.

V. Special Education students shall be judged on an individual basis.

VI. Exception:

The Board of Education may grant an exception to any provision of this guideline wherein a peculiar condition or combination of conditions renders such condition(s) a hazard upon reasonable judgment.

VII. 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 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. Given 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 inconsistent with Section [10-186](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes or these guidelines.

VIII. 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 transfers to an out-of-district school under a cooperative arrangement because their District home school has been identified as in need of improvement under the No Child Left Behind Act.

IX. 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 of 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 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.

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

X. Other Stipulations

Bus stops may be located at more frequent intervals to reduce student congestion at the stops, or for other reasons of safety as determined by the Board.

School transportation services are provided exclusively for the benefit and safety of the student population, and are 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 students

[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

[10-220](#) 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 within school district

[14-275a](#) Use of standard school bus required, when.

[14-275b](#) Transportation of handicapped students

[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

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