

Business and Non-Instructional Operations**Transportation**

The Regional School District #10 Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide safe, courteous and efficient transportation services for its students. Designated routes and bus stops for students shall be established by the Board of Education through the Business Manager, with advice of the bus contractors, in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Definitions
 - a. "School transportation" means the procedures, program or fully effective and implemented plan by which a pupil is conveyed to and/or from school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or 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 pupil's residence and his school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil's residence to a point at the entrance of the school, or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school building entrance 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 established by the Board of Education.
 - 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, but not more than 5,380 feet.
 - d. "Grade K" means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning pupil.
 - e. "Hazard" means a thing or condition, as prescribed in these guidelines, affecting the safety of pupils walking to and from school or designated point of embarkment (bus stop).
 - f. "Pupil" means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or nonprofit private school located within the school district or contiguous school district as the case may be.

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2. Hazardous conditions
 - a. The maximum walking distance from home to school or to a prescribed point of embarkation are the following: (1) pupils enrolled in Grade PreK through 4, one mile; (2) pupils enrolled in middle school grades 5 through 8, one and one-half miles; and (3) pupils enrolled in high school grades 9 through 12, two miles. Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of the above distances shall be hazardous.
 - b. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalk or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if one or more of the following conditions exist:
 1. For pupils enrolled in grades PreK through 4, any street, road or highway possessing a traffic count of sixty or more vehicles per hour at the time that pupils are walking to and from school or designated bus stop and where posted speed limits are in excess of 35 miles per hour.
 2. For all pupils, the usual or frequent presence of man-made hazards such as open man-holes, dangerous construction, snow plowed or piled on the walk are making walkways unusable, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on walkways, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking areas at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, and the like.
 3. For all pupils when the line-of-sight visibility at the appointed bus stop together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Design Manual, revised, except in those cases in which a road is less than 22 feet unplowed, or 20 feet plowed. The line of sight requirements of this section do not apply to bus stops located on roads that are less than the required width. When measuring road width under this paragraph 2.b.3, the measurement is to be taken where the bus stop is located. All line of sight measurements using the Department of Transportation Highway Design Manual only require measuring outward from the bus stop – they do not apply to other portions of the road along which a student walks.
 4. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, water-way or bridge within ten feet of a walk area shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water for pupils in grades PreK through 4, except in those cases in which a road is less than 22 feet unplowed, or 20 feet plowed.

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2b. Hazardous Conditions (continued)

- 5. Any area adjacent and within five feet of a roadway, walkway, sidewalk, 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 pupils in grades PreK through 4, except in those cases in which a road is less than 22 feet unplowed, or 20 feet plowed.
- 6. Walking to and from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise or any time one-half hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades PreK through 8.
- c. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk or path designated as a walking route for all school pupils 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 pupils ordinarily walk to or from school shall be deemed hazardous.
- 3. These guidelines are applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-220c. In no case shall this policy be interpreted to require the Board of Education to transport any student except as identified below in #4 on a public or private road which is less than 22 feet wide unplowed, or 20 feet plowed.
- 4. Pupils possessing physical handicaps and/or health conditions rendering them unable to walk to either the bus stop or school and Special Education pupils shall be judged on an individual basis.
- 5. Designated Bus Routes and Stops

Bus routes and stops are developed taking into consideration safety and efficiency. To this end, the Board of Education may accommodate one permanent Monday through Friday pick-up and drop-off schedule for each child per school year provided it is along established bus routes. In the event a permanent change to a pick-up and drop-off schedule is needed during a school year, a written request must be submitted to the school principal at least three weeks in advance of such change.

- Policy adopted: March, 1985
- Policy revised: August 23, 1998
- Policy revised: June 11, 2001
- Policy reviewed: July 1, 2009
- Policy revised: March 2012