

Dell Rapids School District #49-3

Policies and Regulations Code: EAA – Support Services



STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The major purpose of school transportation is to get students who reside within an unreasonable walking distance from school to school and back in an efficient, safe, and economical manner. Secondary purposes of school transportation are for academic field trips in direct support of the curriculum, and transportation for support of the co-curricular program (athletics, music, drama, etc.).

Transportation will be provided by the Board for the purpose of transporting students to and from school. Transportation service will be provided to students who are residing within the Dell Rapids School District and attending the Dell Rapids Public Schools

The Dell Rapids School District will provide transportation services to and from school for students who live outside the city limits of Dell Rapids. Transportation service routes shall be established to provide service to the rural residence of each student enrolled in the Dell Rapids School District and who requires transportation.

The Dell Rapids School District shall provide transportation to nonpublic school students who live outside city limits only if no additional public funds are expended to provide the transportation. District patrons who live within city limits and want their children bused to a nonpublic school will be charged a fee. The Dell Rapids School District shall not provide transportation to nonpublic school students attending a nonpublic school located outside the Dell Rapids School District.

The transportation supervisor or carrier, working under the supervision of the superintendent, will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school transportation system and the scheduling and routing of all buses, bus stops and all regulations of the program.

The transportation of students with special needs will be in accordance with the specifications of their individual educational plan and will be arranged by the special education director, the transportation supervisor and the transportation carrier.

The management of the school transportation program will meet the following criteria:

1. **Adequacy:** The program shall provide both necessary and sufficient transportation to and from school and for all other school programs.
2. **Safety:** The scheduling and operating of the program takes into consideration hazards, potential dangers to students, and all appropriate safeguards.
3. **Economy:** The program shall be operated in the most efficient manner possible after considering the constraints imposed by the criteria of adequacy and safety.

Only persons who are properly licensed will operate vehicles owned or contracted by the Board. School bus drivers must meet all state requirements for licensing.

The Board authorizes the superintendent, and submitted to the Board for approval, to develop, modify and implement any and all rules, regulations, and/or guidelines necessary to carry out this policy and any related policies.

Transportation Scheduling and Routing

The District will annually review and conduct studies of the transportation routes to provide the safest, shortest routes that will get all resident district children to and from school in the most economical way. Routes will be arranged in such a way as to equalize as nearly as possible the length of routes, bus loads, and to provide for the full use of buses. Arrangements will provide each child's transportation to and from school within the prescribed time limits.

Transportation routes should not overlap unless absolutely necessary. When more than one bus travels on an arterial highway, each bus will be assigned a certain portion of the route and all resident children within the section will ride the bus to which they are assigned. Only one bus will cover one particular road unless overcrowding occurs. The district shall never overload a bus, but reserves the right to determine when a bus is overcrowded. Factors which may be used in making decisions about overcrowding may include but not be limited to: age of students; size of students; length of route; and the amount of supervision required.

No established or official transportation route will be extended or changed without Board approval. Before recommendation to the Board, the proposed extension or change will be reported to the superintendent or transportation supervisor and/or carrier, which will verify that the extension or change has been checked to determine whether it meets all regulations pertaining to safety, efficiency, and economy. Buses will not go off of their designated route to pick up or drop off students.

The school district shall provide transportation to students enrolled in regular daycare at rural sites. This service will be provided as long as: the rural daycare location is on a district-established route; and the bus is determined by the school district not to be overcrowded.

Student Transportation within the City Limits

The Dell Rapids School District will provide transportation services to and from school for students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade who live within the city limits of Dell Rapids. District patrons who want their children bused within the city limits of Dell Rapids will be charged a fee. The District will establish pick up and drop off points located at strategic points throughout the city. City residents who take their children to a rural daycare provider within the district, and who want transportation from the daycare provider to school and back, will be charged a fee. All rules, regulations, guidelines, and fee structure will be developed and implemented by the superintendent and approved by the school board. The Board authorizes the superintendent, working with the other district administrators, to review and determine city busing requests and exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Student Transportation for Open Enrolled Students

Parents who open enroll their children into the Dell Rapids School District from another school district can either transport their own children to the appropriate Dell Rapids School or utilize the Dell Rapids School District transportation service. Open enrolled families who want their children transported by Dell Rapids school buses will be charged a fee as determined by the Board of Education.

The Board will review on a case-by-case basis requests for extending the bus routes outside of the district boundaries for the purpose of providing bus service to students who are open enrolled into the Dell Rapids School District. The criteria that will be used in deciding whether the route should be extended out of the district include

but is not limited to: safety, number of students regularly riding the bus, additional miles, additional time, and efficiency.

The District's intention is to not extend transportation services beyond three (3) miles of the District's borders.

LEGAL REF.: SDCL 13-28-45, SDCL 13-29
SDCL 13-29-4, and SDCL 13-30
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Adopted: February 9, 2015