

### 8600 TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education shall transport eligible pupils to and from school and school related activities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1 et seq. and Board policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public and nonpublic (and charter, if applicable) school pupils, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

The Board will provide transportation to and from school for all public school pupils because the district schools are either on hazardous routes or too remote to be considered safe for walking.

The Board has determined that no public school pupil shall be required to ride a school bus more than 45 minutes one way per day on a regular basis with the following exceptions:

- Inclement weather
- Out of district students
- Late run routes

Pupils in grades 7-12 shall not be required to walk more than .5 of a mile to the bus stop to which they have been assigned. Pupils in grades Kindergarten through 6 shall not be required to walk more than .3 of a mile to the bus stop to which they have been assigned.

The Board will transport pupils certified by a physician as temporarily disabled regardless of the distance between their home and school.

The Board will transport disabled pupils in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:46-1 et seq. and Policy No. 8670.

The Board will approve all bus routes by August 1 of each school year. Bus routes for all non-remote pupils who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes will be designated. The Board will consider, but shall not be limited to, the criteria outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5 in determining "Hazardous Routes."

The Board will not be responsible for the transportation of nonresident pupils to or from school, except that transportation to and from school will be provided for homeless children for whom



OPERATIONS  
8600/page 2 of 6  
Transportation  
M

the district is determined to be the district of residence and for homeless children enrolled in this district when no district of residence has been determined.

### Non-Public/Charter/Choice Students

The Board will transport resident children who attend a nonpublic or charter school in the State of New Jersey not more than twenty miles from their residence, but not a lesser distance from their residence than that required for the transportation of pupils enrolled in the schools of this district. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2, pupils living more than twenty miles from their nonpublic school are eligible for transportation services when other pupils living within the district, whose residence is less than twenty miles from school, are transported to the same nonpublic school.

Aid in lieu of transportation will be provided to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of nonpublic and charter pupils pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1. When the schools of this district are closed for inclement weather or other conditions, no transportation will be provided for pupils enrolled in any public, nonpublic and/or charter school.

When the Board provides transportation of pupils to and from county vocational schools and/or schools classified pursuant to Chapter 46 of N.J.S.A. 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and/or when the Board has in the prior year provided payments in lieu of transportation for any nonpublic schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 or the Board cannot provide transportation in the ensuing school year the Board will utilize the Camden County Educational Services Commission for providing cooperative transportation services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1. The Board will attempt to use one of the agencies prior to determining to pay aid in lieu of transportation if in the prior year payments in lieu of transportation were provided. The Board will provide to the Camden County Educational Services Commission any unique limitations or restrictions of the required transportation.

When the costs to provide transportation in cooperation with Camden County Educational Services Commission is less than the aid in lieu of payments, the Board will contract with the Camden County Educational Services Commission to provide transportation. The Board will make the determination on the manner in which transportation services shall be provided in



# POLICY

## WATERFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS  
8600/page 3 of 6  
Transportation  
M

accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 and shall notify the nonpublic school and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the nonpublic school by August 1 prior to the beginning of the school year.

Transportation in cooperation with Camden County Educational Services Commission will not be required when the district can provide transportation at a lower cost than the Camden County Educational Services Commission or the transportation provided by Camden County Educational Services Commission does not fall within the policies of the Board regarding length of ride and assignment of pupils to a route based on pupil age or classification.

Vehicles used to transport pupils to and from school or school related activities shall meet standards, registration and inspection requirements of the New Jersey Departments of Education and Transportation. The operation and fiscal management of the district's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education Policy and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation.

### Hazardous Routes and Placement of Bus Stops

The Waterford Board of Education is concerned with the safety of students who walk to and from their bus stop along roadways determined to be hazardous routes. The criteria used to determine hazardous routes may include but shall not be limited to the following:

1. Population density; more than 20 pupils at a bus stop
2. Traffic Volume;
3. Bus stops on roadways where the posted speed is greater than 40 mile per hour
4. Absence of sufficient sidewalk space;
5. Roadways and highways that are winding or have blind curves; visibility should be 500' in either direction.
6. Roads or highways with steep inclines or declines;
7. Drop offs that are close proximity to a sidewalk;
8. Bridges or overpasses that must be crossed to reach the bus stop;
9. Train tracks or trestles that must be crossed to reach the bus stop;
10. Busy roads or highways with more than 2 lanes that must be crossed to reach the bus stop.
11. Early morning bus stops that don't have a street light.
12. Bus stops that do not allow for students to wait 12 feet from the roadway.
13. Distance to turn on flashing lights that is less than 300'.



OPERATIONS  
8600/page 4 of 6  
Transportation  
7 M

Only the conditions above are considered hazardous. The distance to the bus stop shall not be a factor in considering whether it is hazardous. Visibility from the home to the bus stop shall not part of the district criteria for establishing bus stops. If a parent/guardian is concerned about watching their child at the stop, they need to walk them to the stop.

Students who would otherwise be required to walk to and from school along routes designated as hazardous shall be included in the calculation of the districts regular vehicle capacity utilization.

### Request for Bus Stop Changes

Requests for bus stop changes must be in writing. Any denial of the request must include (a) the reason(s) for the denial; (b) a statement that the requestor may appeal the decision; and (c) the method to appeal the decision. Safety should be the primary consideration when evaluating a parent's complaint, not personal circumstances or convenience. Bus drivers may not alter the bus stops, all changes must be approved by school district.

### Requests for Baby Sitter Stops

Students may be bused to a babysitter through grade 6 if a written request is received by the transportation department. Babysitter stops must be 5 days per week, but may be different between the morning and the afternoon. Bus stops must be within Waterford Township. Approval shall be documented in the student's transportation file. Any denial of the request must include (a) the reason(s) for the denial; (b) a statement that the requestor may appeal the decision; and (c) the method to appeal the decision

### House Stops

House stops should be avoided for the following reasons:

1. The tendency for students to stay in the house and run for the bus when it arrives is a safety concern.
2. Substitute drivers are unable to find the houses.

The superintendent or designee may approve a request for a house stop if one of the following conditions exist. The house number must be clearly visible from the road.



# POLICY

## WATERFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS  
8600/page 5 of 6  
Transportation  
M

1. No other students are at the established bus stop.
2. The student or parent/guardian had a documented medical condition that prevents them from getting to the bus stop.

All approved house stops will revert to the normal bus stop at the end of the academic year. The parent/guardian must reapply for a house stop each year. Approval shall be documented in the student's transportation file. Any denial of the request must include (a) the reason(s) for the denial; (b) a statement that the requestor may appeal the decision; and (c) the method to appeal the decision

### Bus Stop Safety

The student's parent or guardian is responsible for their safety while they travel from their home to the bus stop and while waiting at the bus stop. Students in grades kindergarten and one must be escorted to and from the bus stop by a responsible adult. The board of education highly recommends that students in grade two and three be escorted to and from their bus stop for their safety. Students are expected to arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled arrival of the bus. Bus Drivers may not approve of waiver of this requirement. The superintendent or designee shall establish rules and regulations for student behavior on the way to the bus stop, while waiting at the bus stop and while riding the bus stop.

### Visitors on Buses

It is important for safety reasons that the district know who is on the bus and that they are in their assigned seat. For that reason, only students registered for a particular bus may use that bus. Riding home with a friend is not permitted.

### Training Program

The superintendent or designee shall implement training programs to promote bus safety. The programs shall be aimed at parents and guardians for student's grades three and under and at the students for grades four and up.



# POLICY

## WATERFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS

8600/page 6 of 6

Transportation

M

The bus companies shall receive a copy of this policy and related regulations as part of the annual contract with instructions that the drivers must receive and abide by the policies and regulations. The superintendant or designees will establish consequences for failure to follow these requirements.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 27:15-16

N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 et seq.; 6A:27-2.1 et seq.; 6A:27-3.1

