TRANSPORTATION

It is the intent of the Newport School District to provide safe transportation to and from school, within District resources, for those students who are eligible according to the policies established by the School Board.

The district may provide transportation to and from school for a student:

A. Whose residence is beyond one driven mile s from the school to which the student is assigned;

B. Whose walking route to school is hazardous;

C. Whose disability prevents him/her from walking or providing for his/her own welfare while walking as noted in their IEP (Individualized Education Program)

D. Who has another compelling and legally sufficient reason to receive transportation services. The parent or guardian of a student whose assigned bus stop is beyond the maximum walking distance may receive reimbursement for private transportation at the state mileage reimbursement rate.

Each year the superintendent shall present to the board for the number of students who are transported who live within the minimum distance of their schools and for whom there appears sufficient justification for the district to provide transportation. In this report, the superintendent shall also provide the reasons why each of these students is transported.

The district's transportation program shall comply in all ways with state law and regulation. Transportation services of the district may include approved bus routes, district-approved field trips, school activities (participants only) and extracurricular activities (rooters). The superintendent is authorized to permit a parent of a student enrolled in school to ride a bus when excess seating is available and private or other public transportation is not reasonably available.

The board of directors may authorize children attending an approved private school to ride a school bus provided that the bus route and stops are not altered, space is available. A fee to cover the per seat cost for such transportation may be collected.

Out of District Attendance

In instances where students attending from non-resident districts have been admitted, it shall be the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to transport the child to the nearest bus stop located within district boundaries.

ROUTES AND SCHEDULES

The superintendent, in conjunction with the bus service provider, shall be responsible for scheduling bus transportation, including the determination of routes and bus stops as well as overseeing the transportation program.

The purpose of bus scheduling and routing is to achieve maximum service with a minimum fleet of

buses insofar as this is consistent with rendering safe and reasonably equal service to all students entitled to such service. The board may authorize the use of a district-owned passenger car in lieu of a bus for transporting students to and from school.

In order to operate the transportation system as safely and efficiently as possible, the following factors shall be considered in establishing bus routes:

A. Where an alternate route may be considered without sacrifice of efficiency or economy, preference shall be given to that route more directly serving the largest number of students.

B. Location of bus stops may be determined by such factors as student safety, economy and efficiency. Students may be required to walk up to one mile from their home to their bus stop provided that the walking route is safe.

C. School schedules shall be adjusted to allow maximum utilization of each bus in the system by alternating elementary and secondary trips.

The district shall apply for state transportation apportionment funds and shall maintain the records required to obtain such funding.

EMERGENCY ROUTES AND SCHEDULES

The district shall develop emergency bus routes and schedules to be used when weather conditions make the usual routes impassable or, in the superintendent's judgment, too hazardous. At the beginning of the school year, copies of emergency routes and schedules shall be distributed to parents with instructions on how to obtain emergency information.

If roads are closed to buses but not to private vehicles, the district may continue to operate the instructional programs of the schools without providing bus transportation until the roads are again open to buses.

Legal References:	RCW 28A160	Transporting of children to school or school activities Transporting of elderly — Insurance
	28A.160.020	Authorization for private school students to ride buses — Conditions
	28A.160.030	Authorizing individual transportation or other arrangements — Pupils must provide their own transportation, when
	WAC 392-141	Transportation Authority and State Reimbursement
	392-172-204	Transportation (Handicapped)
	392-172-035	Definitions of “free appropriate, public education,” “adult student,” “handicapped student,” “parent,” and “school district”