

Stafford Township Board of Education Regulation

OPERATIONS
R8600
Student Transportation

R 8600 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

General Requirements - Students Remote From School

- A. The Board will transport:
1. Students who reside remote, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.4(a)1. and (a)2., from their assigned district school of attendance;
 2. Nonpublic school students who reside remote from their school of attendance and meet the eligibility criteria of N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1 et seq.;
 3. Charter school or renaissance school students pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-3.1 et seq.;
 4. Students with special needs shall be provided transportation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1;
 5. School choice students pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-4.1 et seq.; and
 6. Special population students pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-6.2 through 6.5.

Nonpublic and Charter School Transportation

- A. The Board may 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.
- B. Pupils living more than twenty miles from their nonpublic or charter 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.

These pupils living more than twenty miles from the school (maybe or are) required to utilize existing bus routes and stops established for pupils living within the district and within twenty miles of the nonpublic school.

- C. Aid in lieu of transportation will be provided to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.

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- D. The Board has determined that no nonpublic and/or charter school pupil shall be required to ride a school bus more than sixty minutes one way per day.
- E. Transportation services will be provided in accordance with this N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2(c)2. to a nonpublic school located outside the State not more than twenty miles from the pupil's home.

Hazardous Routes

The Board will approve all bus routes each school year. Bus routes for all non-remote students who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes will be designated and approved by the Board. The Board will approve a list of hazardous routes in the district requiring the courtesy busing of students and the criteria used in designating the hazardous routes. In adopting Policy and Regulation 8600 and the list of hazardous routes, the Board may consider, but shall not be limited to, the criteria outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5 as follows:

1. Population density;
2. Traffic volume;
3. Average vehicle velocity;
4. Existence or absence of sufficient sidewalk space;
5. Roads and highways that are winding or have blind curves;
6. Roads and highways with steep inclines and declines;
7. Drop-offs that are in close proximity to a sidewalk;
8. Bridges or overpasses that must be crossed to reach the school;
9. Train tracks or trestles that must be crossed to reach the school; and
10. Busy roads or highways that must be crossed to reach the school.

A school district shall work in conjunction with municipal officials in determining the criteria necessary for the designation of a hazardous route.

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Cooperative/Coordinated Transportation Services

- A. The Board shall utilize cooperative/coordinated transportation services in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C 6A:27-10.1 et seq.

School Bus Use and Standards

- A. All school buses bid or purchased shall be equipped in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-10 – School Bus Safety Equipment.
- B. School bus drivers and all school bus passengers shall be required to wear seat belts when transported in school buses so equipped. Seat belts shall be fastened when the driver and passengers board the vehicle and they shall be kept fastened at all times while on board the vehicle. Seat belts may be unfastened only when the individual is departing the vehicle. The Board further requires that drivers and passengers using private vehicles to transport students wear seat belts in the same manner.
- C. There shall be displayed on every bus subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1, signs or legends which will, insofar as practicable, inform the driver of any vehicle concerning the duty imposed upon him/her by law with respect to passing a bus, while it is loading or unloading. The signs or legends shall be in a color, form, and design as will meet the requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education.

An agency, Board of Education, nonpublic school, or school bus contractor operating a school bus subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 shall display across the rear of the school bus a telephone number, website address, or other identifying information which shall allow the public to report a bus driver's misconduct while operating the school bus to the Board of Education or nonpublic school for which the school bus provides transportation. The lettering shall be of a color that contrasts with the color of the school bus.

The Board of Education or nonpublic school shall comply with New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) regulations regarding: the appropriate Board of Education or nonpublic school official or designee to address and respond to a complaint of school bus driver misconduct; the appropriate actions which a Board of Education or nonpublic school may take to respond to a complaint of school bus driver misconduct; and the time period during which a Board of Education or nonpublic school may act to respond to a complaint of school bus driver misconduct in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-2.1.

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- D. The Board requires every school bus bid or purchased that is used to transport public, non-public, charter, and/or renaissance school students will be equipped with a crossing control arm at the right front corner of the bus. The arm must open and extend out from the bus at least five feet each time the bus door is opened.
- E. School bus purchase, use, and standards must meet Federal and State standards and must be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. – Public School Contracts Law.

Operation and Management of Transportation System

- A. The transportation coordinator at the direction of the Business Administrator shall
 - 1. Prepare a map of the district on which each bus stop and bus route is indicated or, alternatively, prepare an itinerary of bus routes that may be used in conjunction with a map of the school district;
 - 2. Prepare and promulgate procedures to be followed in the event of a bus emergency, bus safety, bus driver training and rules governing the conduct of all students transported by the Board in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 et seq. and 6A:27-12.1 et seq.;
 - 3. Maintain such records and make such reports regarding school transportation as are required by the State Board of Education; and
 - 4. Prepare the specifications for each bus route or contract for which proposals will be sought by the Board in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.1 et seq.
- B. 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 NJDOE.

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