RELATIONS WITH NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

In recognition of its responsibility under state law and regulation the Board of Education shall make available required public school materials, equipment and services to resident students who attend nonpublic schools.

For purposes of this policy, the term “parent” includes parent, guardian or person in parental relation.

The Board of Education recognizes the worth of cooperative relationships with nonpublic schools, and encourages district staff to work with their counterparts in such schools on educational matters within the framework of state law and regulation.

Textbook Loan

The Board to purchase and to loan, upon individual request, textbooks to all children residing in the district who are attending grades kindergarten through twelve in any public or nonpublic school which complies with the compulsory education law.

The textbooks must be loaned free of charge to children, but the law permits school boards to make reasonable rules regarding such loan(s).

Therefore, the following rules govern the loan of textbooks to residents of the Somers Central School district attending nonpublic schools:

1. The textbooks remain the property of the district.
2. The textbooks are returned at the end of the nonpublic school's academic year.
3. If lost or destroyed, the textbooks are paid for in the same fashion as the students attending Somers Central School.

Any such textbook must be designated for use in a public school of the state or approved by a board of education or other school authority. The district may require parents or nonpublic schools to submit evidence of this, which may be in the form of a verifiable authenticated list of school districts using the textbooks from the publisher. Textbooks must be nonsectarian in nature and may not carry the endorsement of a religious authority.

The district is not required to spend more than the total amount of textbook aid it receives, although it may provide for additional funds as part of its annual budget. If funding is inadequate to purchase all the books required, to ensure equitable distribution, the district will determine which categories of textbooks (e.g., type (such as consumable workbooks), subject areas, grade levels) may be loaned to both public and nonpublic students within the resources available.
The Superintendent will specify the date by which requests for textbooks must be received by the district and provide notice to all parents of resident students and administrators of those nonpublic schools attended by resident students (where known) of that date. This date must not be earlier than June 1st; however, requests made within 30 days of enrollment in the nonpublic school, or those made after the deadline will not be denied if a reasonable explanation for the delay is given. Requests may be submitted directly by the parent, or via a combined request from the nonpublic school.

**Instructional Computer Hardware and Software Loan**

The Board is required to loan instructional computer hardware and software, upon request, to all pupils legally attending nonpublic elementary or secondary schools located in the school district free of charge. The district shall loan instructional computer hardware and software on an equitable basis. However, the district is not required to loan to nonpublic school students any instructional computer hardware or software purchased with any local, federal or state funds, other than Instructional Computer Hardware or Software Aid funds.

In addition, the district will only purchase and loan software programs that do not contain material of a religious nature.

The Superintendent will specify the date by which requests for instructional computer hardware and software must be received by the district and provide notice to all nonpublic schools located within the district of that date. This date must not be earlier than June 1st; however, requests made within 30 days of enrollment in the nonpublic school, or those made after the deadline will not be denied if a reasonable explanation for the delay is given.

**Library Materials**

Library materials owned or acquired by the district are required to be made available on an equitable basis to students in grades K-12 attending nonpublic schools located within the district, where the materials are required for use as a learning aid in a particular class or program, and loaned for individual student use only, upon the individual request of a student or group of students. The request may be presented either directly to the district or via the administrator of the nonpublic school. Parents must guarantee the return of the materials, and must pay for the value of any loss and/or damages.

**Special Education Services**

The district must provide education for students with disabilities enrolled in nonpublic schools located within the district, regardless of whether such students are residents of the district, upon written request by the parent. Such services can be provided in regular classes of the district, not or separately from district students.
**Health and Welfare Services**

The district is required to provide, upon request of a nonpublic school, health and welfare services which are equivalent to those available to resident students attending the district’s schools, to nonpublic school students who are district residents. For resident students attending a nonpublic school located outside the district’s boundaries, the district will contract with the district where the nonpublic school is located to provide such services.

**Transportation**

The district will provide transportation to resident students attending nonpublic schools as required by law and outlined in policy 8413, Transportation for Nonpublic School Students.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish any and all rules, regulations and procedures necessary to implement and maintain this policy.

Cross-ref: 1741, Home-Schooled Students

Ref: Education Law §§701 (textbooks); 712 (library materials); 751-754 (computer hardware and software); 912 (health services); 1709; 3204; 3602-c (special education); 3635 (career education and gifted services)
8 NYCRR §§21.2; 21.3; 21.4; 175.25

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