

751 – STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The District will meet its legal obligations to provide mandated student transportation services to public school students and private school students using the method(s) that the District deems most appropriate to the particular circumstances. To the extent consistent with applicable law and Board policy, the District may provide student transportation services by contracting with third-party entities, or by using District employees, contracts with parents, or other lawful methods.

In addition to providing legally-mandated student transportation, the District shall also provide student transportation services in other situations permitted by state law and where such transportation has been appropriately authorized by policy, motion or resolution to the Board. To the extent permitted by law, the District may charge fees related to such additional transportation.

The District Administrator shall direct and manage the transportation services the District provides to public and private school students and coordinate such services among relevant parties in the interest of the students' safety and welfare. The District Administrator may delegate responsibility for the oversight and operational issues related to transportation services to another administrator or supervisory employee. The District Administrator shall develop any administrative guidelines that may be necessary or advisable for the implementation of the Board's transportation policies.

At this time, the District neither owns nor leases any school buses. Student transportation via school bus involves a contracted service provider. The following provisions concern the contracted service provider (not including individual parent contracts) that provide student transportation services for the District:

1. The contract shall require the service provider to ensure that the drivers and vehicles used for student transportation meet the requirements established under state or federal law, Board policy, or the contract itself. Such requirements shall include but are not limited to ensuring proper licensure, verifying all aspects of operator eligibility, providing operator training, maintaining appropriate insurance, conducting vehicle inspections, and monitoring vehicle operation.
2. Subject to approval of the District Administrator, the contractor provider shall initially determine and schedule regular bus routes and bus stops, taking into account factors such as the number and location of children, the safety of students, and the cost efficiency of the route. Changes to routes and schedules may be required during the school year, and the contracted provider shall provide advance notification of changes to affected families.
 - a. The District Administrator shall obtain Board approval if it becomes necessary for any student to spend more than 70 minutes on the bus to or from school.

- b. In connection with formulating routes and schedules, the contractor shall not create routes and stops that would require a student to walk more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from his/her dwelling to the bus pick-up/drop-off point.
3. The Bus Contractor (the contractor's driver, and/or any other employee of the contractor who was assigned to provide services under the contract) shall have responsibility to supervise the students who are being transported and shall have the authority to enforce rules and directives and to monitor and appropriately respond to student conduct, except that the contractor is not delegated final authority to suspend or revoke a student's ability to receive/use District-provided transportation services. Further, nothing in this paragraph prevents the District from choosing to exercise concurrent supervisory authority through its officers or employees in any situation.
4. If a student/parent/guardian has a concern about the Bus Contractor or its employees, the student/parent/guardian is expected to notify and work with the Building Principal and/or District Administrator to resolve their concerns.

Student Conduct

To the fullest extent that state law considers a student who is utilizing the District's transportation services to be (1) at school; (2) under the supervision of a school authority; or (3) otherwise subject to the District's disciplinary jurisdiction or oversight or control, the student must abide by all applicable policies, procedures, rules, and directives that govern student conduct. Rules and directives may be established and enforced that are specific to the context of transportation and/or transportation-related safety. Students using transportation services are subject to appropriate discipline or other consequences or interventions related to their conduct, up to and including loss of transportation services, suspension or expulsion from school.

Legal Reference:

Sections 115.76; 118.15(2)(d); 118.51(14); 121 (Subchapter IV); 340.01(56) & 345.05 of Wisconsin Statutes; PI 7 & TRANS 300 or Wisconsin Administrative Code; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; IDEA and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991

Adopted: March 21, 2018