



West Chester Area School District

Guide for Selecting School Bus Stop Locations and Student Walking Routes:

This document lists the WCASD School Board Policy, PA School Code and PA Code regulations for student bus stop locations and student walking routes related to transportation service.



West Chester Area School Board Policy

General

1. Elementary pupils may be asked to walk up to 1 mile to a bus stop; secondary pupils, 1 ½ miles, unless the walking route has been identified as hazardous by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT) pursuant to 67 PA Code 447.1 et seq. in which case those regulations shall apply, or if the bus stop location does not meet the standards of 67 PA Code 104.3.
2. No transported students will cross Routes 3, 30, 100, 202, 322, or 352 on foot.
3. Bus stops will not normally be scheduled more than four per mile, except where dictated by lack of visibility, lack of berm, speed limits, etc.
4. Bus stops will not normally be established for less than the following number of pupils: elementary-6; middle-8; high school-10.
5. Bus stops may be adjusted if the number of students at a stop results in congestion that excessively interferes with the normal flow of roadway traffic, or if the bus stop waiting area is not large enough to accommodate the number of students.
6. Parents of children are responsible for their safety prior to boarding the bus and from the time the child is discharged.
7. Stops including those in developments will be at intersections except for special education and noon kindergarten pupils.
8. Determination of bus stops on a particular vehicle's route will be determined solely by the School District pursuant to these guidelines, while maximizing routing efficiency.
9. In general, bus stops will remain unchanged year to year unless it is determined that a bus stop does not meet the criteria of Board Policy.

Developments

10. Mixed buses (elementary, middle, high combined) will follow the guidelines for the youngest-age group when entering a development.
11. All buses entering a development will, whenever possible, follow the same route. Stops for differing schools will be at different points along the route of travel of buses.
12. Buses shall generally avoid entering cul-de-sacs or one-entrance way developments unless the District deems it is necessary in accordance with these guidelines, and if buses can navigate such development in accordance with state or federal law or regulation concerning transportation practices.
13. Buses will not travel into developments under construction, or if built in phases into any phase thereof, prior to complete build-out of the phase if applicable, unless the following criteria are met: 1. the stop outside of the development does not meet the criteria elsewhere in the guidelines; 2. the bus carrier agrees to travel on the thoroughfare; and 3. the parents requesting the exception provide an agreement in a form acceptable to the school district in which the building contractor/developer, residents and home owners association hold harmless the school district and carrier.

Parent Request and Exceptions

14. Parents must realize that bus stop assignments cannot be customized to meet every individual need and still be part of an efficient and economical transportation system.
15. The District cannot consider factors that are associated with individual family or parental situations. Such concerns are expected to be resolved by the family, parent, or guardian, not the School District. Examples:
 - a. Parent not being able to see child walking to bus stop and /or waiting at bus stop
 - b. Neighborhood feuds or conflicts with nearby residents.
 - c. Change in parent's work schedule.
 - d. Parent not able to walk to bus stop with child because of other obligations.
16. The granting of special transportation services is based on the disability or physical handicap of the child transported as required by the Pennsylvania Regulations at 22 Pa. Code §15.6 and §504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
17. The School District shall not grant special transportation services to accommodate the disabilities or other circumstances concerning caregivers, siblings or other individuals excluded from the legal requirements of Section VII of the transportation policy. The transportation services include, but are not limited to, changing bus stop locations and changing walking distances.

PA School Code

No secondary level pupil shall walk more than 2 miles to and from school or a designated bus stop and elementary level pupil is 1 ½ miles

Hazardous Walking Route (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation -67 PA Code 447)

- A. PennDOT determines whether a walking route is hazardous or nonhazardous.
- B. If sidewalks exist that are minimum widths of 2 feet, gravel, brick, stone, or paved surface and available during normal weather conditions, the student walking route is not hazardous.
- C. If sidewalks do not exist and any one of the following 2 conditions exist, the student walking route shall be considered hazardous:

- 1. The shoulders are less than 4 feet wide and for either:

Elementary students – the roadway surface is less than 20 feet wide and one or more trucks with three or more axles, not including garbage trucks or other types of trucks making house-to-house stops, normally use the roadway during the time the elementary students are enroute to or from school.

Streets and highways with an average traffic volume of a least 10 vehicles/hour during the time students are walking, a 3.5 foot tall elementary school student or a 4.5 foot tall secondary student is not visible by approaching drivers from at least the following minimum distances:

Safe Running Speed (mph)	Minimum Distance (feet)
30 or less	200
35	240
40	275
45	315
50	350
55	410

- 2. The normal vehicular traffic volume during any 15-minute period that students are enroute to or from school exceeds the following values for the appropriate safe-running speed range:

Shoulder Width	Safe Running Speed is 35 MPH or less		Safe Running Speed is over 35 MPH	
	Elementary	Secondary	Elementary	Secondary
Less than 4 ft.	30	45	20	30
4 ft. to 6 ft.	60	100	40	65

- D. Regardless of the presence of sidewalks, a student walking route shall be considered hazardous if any one of the following 2 conditions exist:

- 1. Two or more pedestrian-related accidents have occurred during the last 3 years while the pedestrians were walking along the student walking route during hours students are normally going to or from school.

- 2. It is necessary for a student to cross a roadway at a location where vehicular traffic is not controlled by either traffic control signals or a stop sign or where students are not protected by an adult crossing guard; provided vehicular traffic on roadway is in excess of the values given in the table below for any 15-minute period during which students are enroute to or from school:

Roadway Width (feet)	For Elementary Students Number of Vehicles	For Secondary Students Number of Vehicles
20 or less	155	175
24	130	150
30	100	120
36	80	100
48	40	60

(If the roadway is divided by a raised median which is at least 8 feet wide and has nonmountable curbs, the roadway should be considered as two separate roadways.)

- E. A student may be required to walk up to 500 feet on a roadway designated as a hazardous walking route if it is deemed safer than instituting multiple stops and increasing the probability of bus-related accidents.

Bus Stop Location (67 PA Code 104.3.)

Outside a business or residence district, the required sight distance to a school bus stopped on the roadway shall be a minimum of 500 feet unless the school district chooses a location for a loading zone with a lower sight distance because it is safer for the school bus to stop at this location than it is for the student to walk to a location that satisfies the 500 foot sight distance requirements.

