

Student Transportation

Bon Homme School District recognizes its obligation under SD Law to provide transportation to and from school to elementary school students and children in need of special or prolonged assistance. This policy authorizes the establishment of a transportation system and provides the guidelines under which it is to be operated. All transportation allowances paid to parents will be in accordance with amounts established in South Dakota Statute. All mileage measurements shall be made via the publicly used road located nearest the dwelling house of the child to the site of the school. Vehicles owned by the Board will be operated by authorized school employees or officials who are properly licensed. These employees and officials must meet all State Requirements for licensing.

Mileage: When mileage is paid for travel to and from school, the legal rate shall be applied only to those miles in excess of five (5) miles one way (SDCL 13-29-19). Mileage rates may be established at rates higher than the current legal rate when it is the opinion of the Board that the circumstances warrant. Higher mileage rates may be agreed to, for example, if children from more than one family are transported in the same vehicle. Mileage will be paid only for trips deemed necessary by the Board.

Preschool/Junior Kindergarten: Bon Homme School District will provide transportation for the half day Preschool/Junior Kindergarten students to the morning session and following the afternoon session by regular school bus. Alternative transportation will be provided for the half day Preschool/Junior Kindergarten students **following** the morning session (Preschool/Junior Kindergarten) and **before** the afternoon session (Preschool). Students will be transported by Bon Homme School District staff in Bon Homme School District vehicles to their home communities of Tabor and Springfield. Students will be delivered to the school or paid daycare providers in Springfield within city limits or any daycare provider located in a direct transportation route between Tyndall and Springfield. Students will be delivered to paid daycare providers in Tabor within city limits or any daycare provider located in a direct transportation route between Tyndall and Tabor. Tabor parents/guardians may pick their student up at the bus stops located at (Yankton & Springfield; Chicago & Janda; Chicago & Vyborny; Lidice & Szymanski).

Elementary Students: Elementary students enrolled in the regular education programs in the District who live outside city limits will be provided transportation to and from school on clean, mechanically sound buses either owned or operated under a contractual agreement by the District. The buses will operate only on maintained public roads following routes established by the Superintendent. As much as possible, routes will be established so that children will not be required to be on the bus for an unreasonable length of time in the judgment of the Superintendent. Bus routes may not travel the same road (unless absolutely necessary) or cross other routes unless approved in advance by the Board. Bus stops will be established on the public road that passes nearest to the driveway of the student's residence. Students will be expected to meet the bus at its scheduled time and to obey the reasonable rules and regulations established by the Superintendent for their conduct while on the bus.

If a family chooses to enroll their children, according to school policy, in a school other than the one to which normal bus routes would transport their children, that family will be responsible for the transportation of their child. The shuttle system may be used to provide transportation in such a situation.

Middle Students: Bon Homme Middle School students shall receive transportation to the school site. It shall be the policy of the Bon Homme School District to allow bus routes to cross over boundaries of attendance areas to transport middle school students to and from the appropriate middle school site.

Secondary Students: Secondary students may be transported to Bon Homme High School provided they meet the following conditions: a) Students must meet the bus at an established stop; b) Students who live outside the city limits may be picked up on the public road that passes nearest to the driveway of the student's residence; c) Students who live within city limits of Tabor or Springfield and who attend high

school are entitled to ride the appropriate shuttle bus to the high school. These students must notify the Superintendent by August 1 of each year of their intention to ride the bus. They will be scheduled and allowed to ride.

Shuttle Bus: Shuttle bus routes may be established between the Bon Homme Middle and High School site and elementary attendance centers in the District.

Special Education: The District will provide transportation to students in need of special or prolonged assistance between their homes and the school to which they are assigned provided the transportation is agreed to by the placement committee and included in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the child. The Board may provide a vehicle for transportation, or it may pay mileage to the parents.

Mileage will be paid to parents of Special Education students when it is necessary to transport the student to receive services and the school does not have a vehicle for transportation or the transportation is outside the District. The number of trips and miles per trip must be included in the students' IEP and agreed to by the placement committee. When the services involve placement of the child outside the District, parents may be paid for trips to the facility to visit the child in accordance with terms agreed to by the placement committee and written in the IEP.

Activities: The Superintendent is authorized to allow the use of buses and other vehicles owned or contracted by the District to provide transportation to students to and from activity events within or outside the District. All schedules for activity transportation must be approved in advance in accordance with this policy. Transportation to activity practices may be provided to middle school students or will be the responsibility of the parents.

Policy Deviations: Any transportation arrangements which do not follow this policy are subject to approval by the School Board. Such approval will not be in effect for more than one year without review by the Board.

Mileage Allowance

Elementary Students: A mileage allowance will be established and reviewed by the Board for miles actually traveled in excess of five (5) miles each way for elementary students who live outside the city limits and more than five (5) miles from the school to which they are assigned when no bus service is provided. Mileage will not be paid for any trips which the Board does not consider necessary and only for the distance measured on the shortest publicly used road between the schoolhouse and the dwelling of the student. When students from more than one family are transported in a single vehicle only the family providing the transportation will be reimbursed.

Secondary Students: A mileage allowance for miles actually traveled in excess of five (5) miles each way will be paid for secondary students who live more than ten miles from a high school within the District when no bus service is provided. Mileage will not be paid for any trips which the Board does not consider necessary and only for the distance measured on the shortest publicly used road between the school or pickup point and the dwelling of the student. When students from more than one family are transported in a single vehicle only the family providing the transportation will be reimbursed.

Additional Mileage & Higher Rate (Elementary and/or Secondary): When one family transports students from one or more other families, mileage will be paid only to the family providing the transportation. With the Board's prior approval additional miles traveled to pick up other students will be allowed. The mileage rate in this circumstance will be established by the Board in each case at the time that the transportation arrangement is approved.

Special Students: A mileage allowance for miles actually traveled from place of residence will be paid for any child in need of special assistance or prolonged assistance, when legally assigned, when appropriate bus service is not provided. The child's placement committee, when it develops the child's IEP, will determine how much travel is necessary. The placement committee may recommend, and the Board may approve additional mileage in excess of \$1,950 for the reimbursement of travel of special

children. "Additional Mileage & Higher Rate" (See above) should also apply to special students. If appropriate to maintain family bonding and if it is not practical to transport the child, mileage may be paid to the parents for trips to the facility where services are being provided to the child.

Claims: All mileage claims of parents must be submitted immediately following the second semester for approval at the June meeting. No mileage claims by parents will be paid after the end of the fiscal year for which they were incurred.

Privately Owned Vehicles

When it is necessary for an employee to use his/her car on school business, the Board will pay State Rates per mile for such use, provided that the travel has been properly authorized in advance.

Legal References:

SDCL 13-29 (School buses & transportation of students)

ARSD 24:05:27:07 (Transportation)

ARSD 24:06 (School buses)

SDCL 13-30 (Student allowances in lieu of transportation)

ARSD 24:05:27:03 (IEP team to determine related services)

Revised: August 23, 2013; July 14, 2014; October 12, 2020; August 14, 2023; February 12, 2024