

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

This policy is meant to guide the provision of student transportation to and from school via school bus or van.

It is the responsibility of the Director of Transportation to develop, implement and, as necessary, alter all routes for the transportation of students; the Director will take into consideration safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of routes, as well as driver availability and any other unpredictable circumstances.

As part of this route-creation process, bus stops will also be determined/designated by the Director of Transportation. RSU No. 5 buses do not travel down private ways/roads; for these roads, stops will be placed at the entrance of these roads.

The Board of Directors will provide transportation for all students living beyond a reasonable distance from their school or from a scheduled bus stop as the Board has determined. This distance is defined as one mile.

Distance shall be measured by the shortest publicly traveled way from the residence to the bus stop or school door. In cases questioned, distance will be measured and established by the Superintendent or their designee.

Exceptions to the above distance shall be made for the following reasons only:

A. Health

Exceptions to established walking distances may be made for students with disabilities as required by their IEP or Individual Health Plan (504 Plan). Exceptions may also be made to accommodate a student's need for transportation with written documentation for the student's physician.

B. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Students

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten bus service will include pickup and delivery to the home, providing a suitable bus turn is available.

C. Hazardous Walking Conditions

Hazardous walking conditions shall be defined as those which would place a child of a given age in a situation of greater than normal or average danger. These conditions are assessed by the Director of Transportation and/or the Superintendent based on factors including, but not limited to, sidewalks, lighting, road conditions, construction, and traffic.

Authorized bus stops will be located so as to load and unload students with the most safety allowed by road conditions. The distance between stops may vary according to safety factors. If possible, students will be loaded and unloaded so that it is not necessary for them to cross a main highway to reach their homes.

Requests for bus stops, inconsistent with this regulation must be made in writing and submitted to the Superintendent/-designee.

Cross Reference: JICC – Student Conduct on School Buses

Legal Reference: Title 20A MRSA, Sec. 5401

Adopted: April 28, 2010

Revised: December 14, 2011

Revised: January 25, 2017

Revised: March 12, 2025