

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Board provides student transportation in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

Student transportation in excess of what is prescribed by law is provided at the discretion of the Board of Education.

The Scarborough School Department will provide transportation at the beginning and end of the school day for all students living beyond a reasonable distance from their school or from a scheduled bus stop as approved by the Board. The Board has determined that a reasonable distance shall be no more than .5 miles from the road end of their driveway to the school or nearest bus stop for K-5 students, and no more than 1 mile from the road end of their driveway to the school or nearest bus stop for students in grades 6 through 12.

Because Scarborough is a rapidly growing community, a Safety Panel will be convened as needed to review bus stop locations and safety issues. The panel will be composed of the Transportation Supervisor, Assistant Superintendent, two school bus drivers, two parents of students attending Scarborough Public Schools and one School Board member.

Required walking distances may exceed distances stated due to safety concerns, remote locations, or near proximity (+/- 500 feet) to actual distances stated.

No Scarborough school bus shall enter any private way. No Scarborough school bus shall enter any public way that is determined to be unsafe as determined by the Safety Panel for bus passage or does not provide adequate turn-around space.

Exceptions may be made for the following reasons:

- A. For students with disabilities, as required by their IEP or 504 Plan. Exceptions may also be made to accommodate a student's need for transportation, with written documentation from the student's physician;
- B. When a student would be exposed to hazardous walking conditions, defined as those that would place a child of a given age in a situation of greater than normal or average danger.

The School Department's transportation program will be under the direction of the Transportation Supervisor, who is responsible to the Superintendent or designee.

It is the Board's intent that transportation be scheduled and routed in a way that best serves the educational interests of students and the operations of the school.

The number of bus stops on each trip will be limited to enable buses to make trips in a reasonable amount of time.

Authorized bus stops will be located to load and unload students in a safety manner. The distance between stops may vary according to safety factors.

In order to accommodate day care needs, a student may be picked up and/or dropped off at a daycare center if it is on a regular bus route. Day care pick up and drop off will be a substitute for home to school/school to home transportation services only. Students will be limited to only one day care arrangement which must be scheduled prior to the start of school. If a child must change day care facilities, requests may be approved by the Transportation Supervisor. Approval of such requests will be given only if there is space available for the child on a bus and if the day care is on a scheduled bus route.

Transportation to or from other locations or non-school activities will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

A parent/guardian may submit a written request for a change in bus stop location to the Transportation Supervisor, who will review the request and notify the parent/guardian, in writing, of their decision. No change in a bus stop location will be made until a request has been granted. Submission of a request in and of itself does not guarantee approval.

The Transportation Supervisor's decision shall be final.

BUS OPERATIONS

- A. School buses shall operate only on town-approved or maintained roads.
- B. It is the parents' responsibility to make arrangements for getting the student to the bus stop before the scheduled pick up.
- C. Parents are responsible for their child's conduct and safety at the designated bus stop. The Scarborough School Department assumes responsibility for a student only when they are onboard the bus.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 5401

Cross Reference: JICC - Student Conduct on School Buses

Replaces: Policy EEA

Adopted: March 6, 1997

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