

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD) is committed to providing safe, reliable and efficient transportation for all eligible students. BWRSD shall only provide transportation to Bristol and Warren residents attending private, parochial, vocational, or special education programs as outlined in [Rhode Island General Law \(R.I.G.L.\) § 16-21.1-2](#)

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY BASED ON DISTANCE

The School Committee will provide free transportation for public and nonpublic school students, attending schools in Bristol and Warren, who reside beyond reasonable walking distances, in accordance with state law. Reasonable walking distances will be determined on the basis of length of normal routes of travel, hazards of the streets, and accessibility of areas to school buses. Currently, the Committee has determined to provide transportation to elementary students (grades K-4) living more than one-half mile from school; middle school students (grades 5-8) living more than one mile from school; and high school students living more than one and one-half miles from school.

Only those students who meet eligibility requirements by means of residence will be permitted to use school bus transportation for the purpose of travel to and from school. The superintendent will recommend to the Committee any changes in student transportation services he /she deems necessary.

TRANSPORTATION ZONES

To the maximum extent feasible, student transportation is to be based on the neighborhood school concept and governed by well-defined student transportation “zones” for each school. These “zones” and number of bus stops may be adjusted as needed in order to ensure efficient distribution of the student population for educational and transportation purposes.

Exceptions to the distance and “zones” may be made to meet the safety or unique needs of individual students as evaluated by the Superintendent, school IEP or 504 team, or in the event of an emergency. A request for transportation considerations can be made through the school Principal and reviewed by the Superintendent or designee.

CHANGES IN LOCATION OF BUS STOP

Students will not be permitted to travel on school buses other than those to which they are assigned and must use their assigned bus stop except under the following circumstances:

Child Care Services

Any modification to a bus stop location for elementary or middle school students must be

permanent and requested for the purpose of childcare. Requests to move a student to a different bus route will only be approved if the change applies to all five days of the school week and the new location remains within the student's assigned transportation zone.

Emergency

In the case of an immediate emergency situation (one day only) requiring the change in a student's assigned drop off location/bus stop, the parent/guardian must contact the school so that the student can be notified. The school will notify the student and the transportation company of the matter.

Work Placement

Parents of high school students or students who have reached the age of eighteen may request changes in their afternoon bus stop location to accommodate a work placement. Such a request must be submitted on the appropriate form which will include a signed acknowledgment from the employer verifying employment. Such a change can only be made for a stop at a business within the district. The student will be dropped at the regularly scheduled stop nearest to the business.

Requests for Change

Parents/guardians will initiate the request for change by completing a bus stop location change request form available on the district's website and returning the completed form to their school. Initial requests for review are submitted to the Transportation Liaison who will follow District Policy & Protocols. These requests will be processed within two weeks after the opening of school.

Any relocation of bus stop will not be approved if doing so will result in:

1. A student overload on the bus
2. Will increase time or mileage to a bus run
3. The rescheduling of a bus route or the addition of a bus stop

Appeals regarding the Transportation Liaison's decision are submitted to the Director of Finance and Transportation Manager. These appeals will be evaluated based on safety concerns and/or special considerations and reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools or designee, if necessary.

Statewide Transportation

The Rhode Island Department of education provides coordinated busing for eligible students attending out-of-district, private, charter and career technical programs. Students in Bristol Warren are eligible for transportation within Region 3.

Special Education Students

All children with special needs will be provided transportation by law in accordance with their individual education plans.

Adopted: May 4, 2026

Bristol Warren Regional School District, Bristol, Rhode Island