

POLICY

MATAWAN-ABERDEEN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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8600 TRANSPORTATION (M)

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to supervise development of bus routes to provide safe, economical, and reasonably expeditious transportation for:

- A. Pupils who live remote from the schoolhouse as defined by New Jersey law;
- B. Educationally disabled pupils in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP);
- C. Pupils participating in Board-approved extracurricular activities or field trips;
- D. Pupils whose route to the school is deemed hazardous by the Board;
- E. Other pupils as required by law or by Board of Education policy.

The Board will provide transportation to and from school for public school students in grades K-5 who live less than 2 miles from the school they attend, even though they are less than remote from the school, provided they meet the criteria designated under courtesy transportation along hazardous routes.

Courtesy Transportation Along Hazardous Routes

The Board is concerned with the safety of students who walk to/from school along routes determined to be hazardous, and recognizes the need for the implementation of a hazardous route policy consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5. The Board instructs the Superintendent or designee to work in conjunction with municipal officials to establish procedures for designating a route as hazardous for students in grades K-5. The Superintendent shall develop rules and regulations to supply courtesy transportation for pupils who must walk to and from school along routes designated by the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District to be hazardous.

Students who would otherwise be ineligible for transportation services and will commence transportation services consistent with said rules pertaining to courtesy busing as designated under a hazardous route policy shall be included in the calculation of the district's regular vehicle capacity utilization.

The criteria to be used in designing routes and assigning pupils to them shall include:

- A. The distance to be traveled to and from school;
- B. The age and state of health of the child;
- C. The requirements of the instructional program;
- D. The hazards involved on the route to be traveled.

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The Board or cooperative transportation services agency may charge parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for transporting pupils for any of the above as permitted by law/regulation. The charge shall be equitable to all students on the designated route, and shall include, but not be limited to, the cost of fuel, driver salaries and insurance.

Transportation to and from school shall be provided, as required by law, to eligible nonpublic and charter school pupils. All pupils riding on district buses shall be required to observe the district's bus conduct regulations or risk loss of the privilege of such transportation.

Buses, whether contracted or district-owned, shall be kept in optimum condition and shall conform to all State safety regulations.

Bus routes must be acted upon by the Board and submitted to the county office in the manner prescribed by law.

Alternate stops

An alternate bus stop for pickup or dismissal may be requested on a permanent and consistent basis. Consideration for alternate stops will be given to such requests that are consistent with the operational goals of this policy. Alternate stop requests will be prioritized for K-5 students if space is available on the appropriate route(s).

Homeless Pupils

As per code, when a pupil who resides and attends school in the district of residence becomes homeless and resides in another district while homeless, that pupil will be provided transportation while the pupil attends school in the district of residence.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 27:15-16
N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 et seq.; 6A:27-2.1 et seq.; 6A:27-3.1

Adopted: 27 Mar 2017

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8600 Transportation

General Requirements - Students Remote From School

A. The Board will transport:

1. Pupils who live remote from the schoolhouse as defined by New Jersey law – As defined by NJSA 18A:39-1 et seq., a pupil who lives remote from the schoolhouse for the purposes of our district is a student in grades K-8 that resides more than 2 miles from the school, and for a student in grades 9-12, the student must reside more than 2 ½ miles from the school.
2. Pupils participating in Board-approved extracurricular activities or field trips – the Transportation Department will receive routine requests for transportation services required to perform extracurricular activities or field trips as approved by district administration in a timely fashion;
3. Nonpublic school students who reside remote from their school of attendance and meet the eligibility criteria of N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2;
4. Charter school students pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3.1 et seq.;
5. Educationally disabled pupils in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) – The Director of Student Services will approve on a routine basis the implementation of a new or revised IEP for a student. Such relevant transportation information as deemed by the Director of Student Services will be communicated to the Transportation Department to provide transportation services as required by said IEP;
6. School choice students pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-4.1;
7. Pupils whose route to the school is deemed hazardous by the Board – The Transportation Department in conjunction with district security personnel and local law enforcement hereby define the parameters of defining a hazardous route; and
8. Other pupils as required by law or by Board of Education policy - The Superintendent or his designee will define the parameters necessary to transport students as required by Board policy not identified above.

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Nonpublic and Charter School Transportation

- A. The Board will transport resident children who attend a nonpublic or charter school in the State of New Jersey not more than twenty miles from their residence, but not a lesser distance from their residence than that required for the transportation of students enrolled in the schools of this district.
- B. Students living more than twenty miles from their nonpublic or charter school are eligible for transportation services when other students living within the district, whose residence is less than twenty miles from school, are transported to the same nonpublic school.
- C. These students living more than twenty miles from the school (maybe or are) required to utilize existing bus routes and stops established for students living within the district and within twenty miles of the nonpublic school.
- D. Aid in lieu of transportation will be provided to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.

Hazardous Routes

The Board will approve all bus routes by August 15th of each school year. Those bus routes for all non-remote students who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes will be designated. The Board will consider, but shall not be limited to the criteria outlined in N.J.S.A 18A:39-1.5 in determining “Hazardous Routes” as follows:

1. Population density;
2. Traffic volume;
3. Average vehicle velocity;
4. Existence or absence of sufficient sidewalk space;
5. Roads and highways that are winding or have blind curves;
6. Roads and highways with steep inclines and declines;
7. Drop-offs that are in close proximity to a sidewalk;

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8. Bridges or overpasses that must be crossed to reach the school;
9. Train tracks or trestles that must be crossed to reach the school; and
10. Busy roads or highways that must be crossed to reach the school.

A school district shall work in conjunction with municipal officials in determining the criteria necessary for the designation of a hazardous route.

The school district has used the following criteria to determine a hazardous route

1. Traffic Volume
2. Average Vehicle Velocity
3. Bridges or overpasses that must be crossed to reach the school
4. Train tracks or trestles that must be crossed to reach the school
5. Busy roads or highways that must be crossed to reach the school
6. Grade of the student

Based on the criteria chosen to define hazardous routes the school district will provide transportation for student in grades kindergarten through 5 regardless of distance from the school who meet the following conditions

1. Reside East of State Highway 35
2. Reside West of State Highway 34
3. Walk more than a ¼ mile along State Highway 34 or 35
4. Must cross railroad tracks at street level or over a bridge
5. Must cross a Garden State Parkway Bridge

Charter School Transportation

- A. The Board will provide transportation or aid in lieu of transportation to charter school students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.
- B. The Board is responsible for to and from charter school transportation for the students that reside within the district.
- C. Students residing within the district that live less than remote from the charter school are eligible for transportation in accordance with the school district's policies for public school students.

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- D. Students who reside in the district or region of residence in which the charter school is located shall be provided with transportation in the same manner as transportation is provided to other public school students residing in the district and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-3.1.
- E. The expenditure for charter school student transportation who reside outside of the district or region of residence in which the charter school is located is limited to the annual nonpublic maximum expenditure per student in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.
- F. When the schools of this district are closed for inclement weather or other conditions, no transportation will be provided for students enrolled in any other public school, charter school, and/or nonpublic school.

Cooperative Transportation Services

- A. When the Board provides transportation of students to and from the county vocational schools and/or students classified pursuant to Chapter 46 of N.J.S.A. 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and/or when the Board has in the prior year provided payments in lieu of transportation for any nonpublic schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 or the Board cannot provide transportation in the ensuing school year the Board will utilize Education Service Commission of NJ and or M.O.E.S.C. for providing cooperative transportation services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1.
- B. The Board will attempt to use the cooperative services provided by Education Service Commission of NJ and or M.O.E.S.C prior to determining to pay aid in lieu of transportation.
- C. The Board will provide Education Service Commission of NJ and or M.O.E.S.C with any unique limitations or restrictions of the required transportation. When the costs to provide transportation by one of the agencies is less than the aid in lieu of payments, the Board will contract with the agency to provide transportation.
- D. The Board will make the determination on the manner in which transportation services shall be provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 and shall notify the nonpublic school and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the nonpublic school by August 1 prior to the beginning of the school year.
- E. Transportation by one of these agencies will not be required when the local district can provide transportation at a lower cost than the Education Service Commission of NJ and or

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M.O.E.S.C or the transportation provided by Education Service Commission of NJ and or M.O.E.S.C does not fall within the policies of the Board regarding length of ride and assignment of students to a route based on student age or classification.

School Bus Use and Standards

- A. The Board requires that all buses bid or purchased shall be equipped with seat belts.
- B. School bus drivers and all school bus passengers shall be required to wear seat belts when transported in school buses so equipped. Seat belts shall be fastened when the driver and passengers board the vehicle and they shall be kept fastened at all times while on board the vehicle. Seat belts may be unfastened only when the individual is departing the vehicle. The Board further requires that drivers and passengers using private vehicles to transport students wear seat belts in the same manner.
- C. The Board requires every school bus bid or purchased that is used to transport public, non-public and/or charter school students will be equipped with a crossing control arm at the right front corner of the bus. The arm must open and extend out from the bus at least five feet each time the bus door is opened.
- D. School bus purchase, use and standards must meet Federal and State standards and must be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.1 et seq.

Operation and Management of Transportation System

- A. The School Business Administrator or his designee shall
 - 1. Prepare a map of the district on which each bus stop and bus route is indicated or, alternatively, prepare an itinerary of bus routes that may be used in conjunction with a map of the school district;
 - 2. Prepare and promulgate procedures to be followed in the event of a bus emergency, bus safety, bus driver training and rules governing the conduct of all students transported by the Board in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 and 6A:27-12.1 et seq.;
 - 3. Maintain such records and make such reports regarding school transportation as required by the State Board of Education; and

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4. Prepare the specifications for each bus route or contract for which proposals will be sought by the Board in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.1 et seq.
- B. The operation and fiscal management of the district's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education Policy and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation.

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