

TRANSPORTATION

Policy

It is the policy of the Stratford Board of Education to operate school buses in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes and Regulations for the operation of school buses.

The decision to create a walk route, bus stop, or bus route rests with the Transportation Manager and shall be based on a student's place of residence and, in part, on special conditions as defined within the regulations of this policy.

Elementary school principals will send letters/forms to parents/guardians regarding weather related early dismissal procedures, which will be kept on file at the student's school.

Parents/guardians should be familiar with bus rules intended to support the safe transportation of students. Parents/guardians are encouraged to review these rules with their children and reinforce that they should act accordingly. This includes AM and PM travel to and from home to school, and conduct at the bus stop, and time spent on the bus.

**Adopted by the Board of Education on September 26, 1994.
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Transportation Policies For The Stratford Board Of Education

1. Definitions

- a. "School transportation" means the procedure, program, or fully effective and implemented plan by which a pupil is conveyed to and/or from school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads approved pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-220c.
- b. "Walking distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the pupil's residence and his school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil's residence to a point at the entrance of the school, or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred (100) feet of the school building entrance.
- c. "One and one-half (1-1/2) mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 7,920 feet, but not more than 8,020 feet. "Two (2) mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 10,560 feet, but not more than 10,660 feet.
- d. "Grade K" means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning pupil.
- e. "Hazard" means a thing or condition, as prescribed in these guidelines, affecting the safety of pupils walking to and from school, or a designated bus pick-up area; a possible source of peril, danger, duress or difficult (cf. Webster), exposure to molestation or attack considered morally degrading or physically harmful.
- f. "Raised walk area or sidewalk" means a portion of the landscaped right of way wide enough to walk on, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved; distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by one of the following: curbing, drainage ditch, grass area, fencing.
- g. "Pupil" means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or nonprofit private school located within the school district.

2. Qualifications

- a. Students that qualify for busing as defined under item 1.C as described above must pre-register with the School for transportation services. Prior to the start of the school year, a letter will be sent to all parents whose children qualify for transportation privileges. Parents must return the form in order for their child to utilize busing services.
- b. If after 45 days from the start of the school year, the student has not used transportation services, they will no longer be provided.

3. Hazardous Conditions

- a. The maximum walking distances from home to school or to a prescribed point of embarkation are the following
 - (1) Pupils enrolled in grades K through 8, one and one-half (1-1/2) miles;
 - (2) Pupils enrolled in grades 9 through 12, two (2) miles.

Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of the above distances shall be hazardous.
 - b. A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exist:
 - (1) For pupils enrolled in grades K through 8, the absence of a traffic light or stop signs or crossing guard where three (3) or more streets intersect, and has a traffic count which exceeds ninety (90) vehicles per hour during the time that pupils are walking to or from school;
 - (2) For all pupils, any street, road, or highway with posted speed limits in excess of forty (40) miles per hour which do not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where pupils must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop.
 - c. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist:
 - (1) For pupils enrolled in grades K through 6, any street, road or highway possessing traffic count of ninety (90) or more vehicles per hour at the time that pupils are walking to or from school;
 - (2) For pupils enrolled in grades K through 6, any street, road, or highways possessing a speed limit in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour.
 - d. A pond, stream, waterway, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water, for pupils in grades K through 6.
 - e. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated a walking route for all school pupils which passes through an area which has a history of aggressive acts of molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when pupils ordinarily walk to or from school shall be deemed hazardous.
4. These guidelines are applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-220c.

5. Transportation shall be furnished without charge to the following:
- a. Physically handicapped, multi-handicapped, blind, visually handicapped, and cognitively disabled pupils assigned to special classes or pupils temporarily handicapped and whose condition is certified by their doctor or the school doctor.
 - b. Pupils attending State Trade Schools (Bullard Havens, Platt, Trumbull Vo-Ag).
6. Transportation shall not be provided beyond the town boundary line except as noted in 3 a. and b. above.
7. Children not eligible in accordance with these policies may be transported on a school bus within a school area where transportation is in effect, provided space is available on a regularly scheduled school bus, which shall not deviate from the prescribed route (when more requests are received than there is space on a given bus, age and distance will be the determining factors with priority to younger children).

8. Exception

The Board of Education may grant an exception to any provision of this guideline wherein a peculiar condition or combination of conditions renders such condition(s) a hazard based upon reasonable judgment.

9. Transportation to and from Day Care Providers

As stated in Item 1. a. of these policies, transportation is provided to and /or from school from the student's residence. Transportation will be provided to and/or from a day care provider only if the bus route does not need to be altered and space is available on existing vehicles.

10. Transportation of Kindergarten Students

All Kindergarten students will be dropped off at their assigned bus stops and must be met by a parent/guardian/caregiver, or will be returned to his/her home school. In the event a student is returned to school more than three times due to a parent/guardian/caregiver not being available to meet him/her at the bus stop, the principal will address the issue with parent/guardian/caregiver. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to develop alternate plans for unexpected emergencies when they are not able to meet their child at the bus stop when returning home from school. These plans, developed by the parents/guardians, should be reviewed with the child, including acquainting them with designated adults the parents/guardians might select as well as houses they should go to in an emergency.

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