

**TRANSPORTATION****Walkers and Riders**

The Board of Education is responsible for the school transportation system. It is the aim of the Board of Education to establish for the public and parochial schools the safest possible transportation system, one which will enable all qualified students of school age to attend school by school bus wherever transportation is reasonable and necessary. Bus transportation shall be for students only.

The transportation system shall be planned and operated in compliance with the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and all regulations of the State Department of Education and the State Department of Motor Vehicles concerning the operation of school buses.

The Board shall further attempt to maintain transportation schedules which shall provide convenient and equal opportunity for all qualified students consistent with efficient and economical operations.

The Board will provide transportation in accordance with this policy for the established maximum walking distances.

Buses may enter a cul-de-sac when it is required for the scheduling of safe and efficient transportation for students, provided the vehicle can turn around in the cul-de-sac. Use of private roads shall be governed by state statute.

Reasonable transportation and/or prescribed walking routes should not exceed one hour each way.

The elementary schools will make arrangements for students to have specific dismissal plans to assure student safety and to avoid dismissing students without proper parental notification.

The Superintendent or his designee may grant exceptions to the Transportation Policy provided that there is room on the buses within 10% of the number of seats available on the vehicle and the vehicle does not have to be rerouted.

Special education students shall be judged eligible for transportation on an individual basis by the Superintendent or his designee or by a Planning and Placement Team.

**I. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "School transportation"** means the procedure, program, or fully effective implemented plan by which a student is conveyed to or from his/her residence or location of his/her permanent child care arrangement to or from the school in which he/she is enrolled by the Board of Education at public expense.
- B. "Walking distance"** means the linear measurement of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student's residence or the location of his/her permanent child care arrangement and his/her assigned bus stop, and/or the entrance to the school property. This distance shall be measured from a point at the edge of a public road nearest to the student's residence and the entrance to the school property. "Walking distance" means measurement on a public or semi-public right-of-way.

**TRANSPORTATION****Walkers and Riders****I. DEFINITIONS (continued)**

**C. "Maximum Walking Distance"** means that students enrolled in specified grades shall not walk in excess of the following schedules:

1. Pupils enrolled in grades K through 5, up to 1.0 miles.
2. Pupils enrolled in grades 6 through 8, or middle school/junior high school, up to 1.5 miles.
3. Pupils enrolled in grades 9 through 12, up to 2 miles from home to school.

"Maximum walking distance" will be measured from the point where the street on which the student resides intersects with another street which point is furthest from the property on which the school that the student attends is located to the entrance to the property on which the school that the student attends is located which entrance is closest to the student's residence.

**D. "Hazard"** means a thing or condition affecting the safety of students walking to or from school, or a designated bus pick up area.

**E. "Walk area"** means a portion of the right-of-way usually parallel to the traffic lanes, which may be paved or unpaved, and any path that is located on school system property. Paths that are not located on school system property will not be considered "walk areas."

**F. A "gap"** means a time period which is of sufficient duration to permit the student to cross the street.

**II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS**

**A.** A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exists:

1. For elementary and middle school students, in the absence of a pedestrian crossing light, stop sign, or crossing guard at any street which students must cross, when the number of "gaps" in the traffic stream, during the period the children are using a crossing, is less than the number of minutes in the same time period.
2. For elementary and middle school students, any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty (40) miles per hour which does not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where students must cross in going to or from school.

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II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (continued)

- B. For all students, any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or walk areas shall be deemed unduly hazardous for students ONLY if the following conditions exist: a line of site obstruction caused by a hill, curve, structure, outcropping, land form, planting, or other obscuring object or structure which may be safely negotiated by vehicles only at speeds under twenty-five (25) miles per hour.
- C. For all students, any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route 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.
- D. For elementary and middle school students, any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or walk areas shall be deemed unduly hazardous for students only if any of the following conditions exist:
  - 1. The traffic count is more than sixty (60) vehicles per hour during the time students are walking to or from school as verified by the Wallingford Police Department.
  - 2. Man-made hazards, including attractive nuisances, as judged by the Wallingford Police Department are present.
  - 3. The roadway available to vehicles, when plowed free of snow accumulation, has minimum width of less than twenty (20) feet, and that has a traffic count of more than thirty (30) vehicles per hour during the time students are walking to or from school or the bus stop.
- E. Any walkway or path in an area that crosses a railroad track shall be considered hazardous unless a suitable physical barrier along the entire pedestrian route is present and fixed between students and the tracks. Any crossing of railroad tracks that carry moving traffic during hours that students are walking to or from school shall be deemed hazardous unless the following conditions exist:
  - 1. A crossing guard is present, OR
  - 2. An automatic control is present at crossings used by students in grades K through 5, or a bar or red flashing signal light is operational when the crossing is used by students in grades 6 through 12.

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III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Parents' Responsibilities

1. The actions and safety of students walking to and from bus stops or to and from the school assigned.
2. Students being transported in any vehicle other than a school vehicle going to or returning from school.
3. The actions and safety of the students at the bus stops.

B. **School's Responsibility:** Adequate instruction shall be given to students at the start of the school year emphasizing the safety aspects of walking or riding to school. The school assumes responsibility for pupils only after they have boarded the district vehicle.

C. **School and Bus Company Personnel's Responsibility:** While only the parents or guardians can have real responsibility for students before boarding buses and after leaving them, all school personnel and personnel of private contractors should cooperate in every practical way to maintain decorum and efficiency at bus stops. After the student boards the bus, the bus driver shall be responsible for keeping reasonable order. School personnel will work with the bus driver to effect solutions of behavioral problems while students are aboard the school vehicle.

IV. APPEAL

A. **HEARING PROCEDURE:** If a parent or guardian requests in writing a hearing by the Board of Education on school transportation for a student, the Board of Education shall:

1. Conduct a hearing within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of a written request.
2. Make a tape recording of such hearing.
3. Make a finding within ten (10) calendar days after such hearing.
4. Conduct the hearing in compliance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes.
5. Upon request of the parent or guardian, provide a transcript of the hearing within thirty (30) working days of such request at the expense of the parent or guardian.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**EEAA**

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**IV. APPEAL (continued)**

**B. INFORMING PARENTS:** The parent or guardian will be informed about the appeal process established by law.

**Legal References:** Connecticut General Statutes  
10-186. Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings.  
Current Regulations of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles

**Policy Approved:** 06/20/94

**Policy Revised:** 06/16/97, 08/19/02, 06/16/03, 6/14/04, 03/15/10