

GOALS OF STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Policy Code:

6300

The local board elects to provide school transportation services for eligible students. The goals of the transportation services are as follows:

- providing transportation to and from school to students most in need of the service;
- making safety a priority in maintaining quality transportation equipment and vehicles;
- teaching and expecting students to act in a safe and orderly manner while using school transportation;
- planning and providing transportation services efficiently and economically;
- using transportation services to support the types of learning opportunities available to students;
- adhering to state guidelines and recommendations in providing transportation services to students;
- working effectively with students, parents, private contractors and other governmental agencies in providing transportation services; and
- providing courteous service to students and responding promptly and courteously to requests by parents and students.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36

Cross References:

Adopted: May 14, 1998 to become effective July 1, 1998

Administrative Procedure: None

ORGANIZATION OF STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Policy Code: **6310**

The superintendent is responsible for establishing a student transportation services program consistent with board goals established in board policy 6300, Goals of Student Transportation Services, and state and federal laws and regulations. School personnel, volunteers, and private carriers are expected to be familiar with all duties imposed by law, board policy or the superintendent.

Specific duties related to providing student transportation services will be included in appropriate job descriptions.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-241, -242, -244 to -246, -248

Cross References: Goals of Student Transportation Services (policy 6300)

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Administrative Procedure: None

Student transportation services will be made available in a manner consistent with board goals. The first priority is to provide transportation to and from school to students most in need of the services.

Other transportation services may be made available as funding permits and in accordance with the legal requirements and board policy, including the following:

- state operated school buses may be used for instructional programs directly related to the curriculum when the trip and use of the bus are approved in accordance with board policy (state funds must be reimbursed for these purposes);
- school buses may be used only for purposes expressly allowed by G.S. 115C-242;
- school buses may not be used for athletic activities or extracurricular activities;
- activity buses and other vehicles meeting federal safety standards may be used for approved school-related activities as local funding permits (passenger vans cannot be used);
- as funding permits, the board encourages the superintendent and principals to provide transportation services to enable students at risk of not meeting promotion standards to take advantage of additional or enhanced opportunities for learning.

Legal References: 49 U.S.C. § 30125, 30165; G.S. 115C-239, -242; Memorandum to All Superintendents from Eddie M. Speas, Jr., Special Deputy Attorney General, January 14, 1988

Cross References: School Trips (policy 3320)

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Administrative Procedure: None

The superintendent or designee will develop school bus routes in accordance with state law and regulations. All bus routes will be on file in the superintendent's office and all changes will be filed within 10 days after such change becomes effective.

Students ordinarily will be assigned to a bus which passes within one mile of the student's residence. To the extent practicable and economically feasible, ride time should be less than 45 minutes one way.

TRANSPORTATION TO LOCATIONS OTHER THAN HOME

Upon request, the superintendent or his/her designee may, but is not required to, assign a student to a bus to transport the student to and/or from a location other than home if the following conditions are met:

- a written request signed by the parent or legal guardian must state the specific location other than home to which the student is to be transported and must acknowledge that the parent and not the school district is responsible for the student's safety once the child has departed from the bus;
- the request for such transportation can not require a bus to deviate in any significant way from an established route;
- there must be capacity on the bus, if the request would necessitate the student riding a different bus from the regularly assigned bus;
- the student's residence and requested bus stop must be within the zone eligible for transportation service;
- the request for such transportation may not cause the school district to incur any additional cost; and
- the proposed bus stop must meet any safety standards established by law, the board, superintendent or principal.

Any changes in bus stops must be approved by the superintendent or designee.

BUS ROUTES IN HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

School buses will not be allowed to operate if there is a serious threat to the safety of students or drivers. The superintendent may develop a more limited bus route for hazardous weather conditions in order to operate only on roads that are safe. To the extent possible, parents will be notified in advance of the bus route which will be used in hazardous conditions. The hazardous conditions bus route will be on file in the superintendent's office.

A student who is identified as having special needs following procedures in the North Carolina Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Special Needs will be provided with transportation services as required by law.

Legal References: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.; G.S. 115C-240(d), -246; 16 NCAC 6B.0004; Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Special Needs, State Board Policy Number 10A100

Cross References:

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Updated: April 8, 1999

Administrative Procedure: None

ELIGIBILITY

Any student assigned to a school which is one and a half miles or more from his or her residence is eligible for transportation services to and from school. In addition, the superintendent or his/her designee will consider applications in the following situations:

- when factors are present which may endanger the safety of students walking to the school;
- when a student is medically certified as temporarily incapacitated;
- a student who is identified as having special needs following procedures in the North Carolina Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Special Needs will be provided with transportation services as required by law;
- a student who has voluntarily requested a transfer from the regularly assigned school may apply but is not guaranteed transportation services.

APPLICATIONS

The parent or guardian of any child enrolled in school may request bus service. The request should be made to the principal of the assigned school or other designated official. The principal or other designated official will forward the application to the superintendent or his/her designee. If the application is denied by the superintendent or his/her designee, the parent may seek review of the decision in accordance with the student grievance policy, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010).

The board will direct that the student be provided transportation services if either (1) the board finds that the student is entitled to be transported to and from such school upon the school bus designated in the application; or (2) if the board finds that the transportation of the student upon such bus to and from such school is in the best interest of the student, will not interfere with the proper administration of such school, or with the safe and efficient transportation by school bus of other students enrolled in the school and will not endanger the health or safety of the children there enrolled.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-239, -240, -241, -244; Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Special Needs, State Board Policy Number 10A100.

Cross References: Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010)

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Administrative Procedure: None

USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES FOR SCHOOL-RELATED PURPOSES

Policy Code:

6335

The board of education specifically forbids the use of private vehicles for school-related purposes (most especially for the transportation of students) without the superintendent's authorization except in emergency situations. Principals should prepare for emergency situations by securing written permits from the superintendent for specific staff members to use their private vehicle for school-related purposes in emergencies.

Whenever individuals use their private vehicle for school-related purposes, including the transportation of students, the following stipulations apply for the purpose of safeguarding the school district in matters of liability:

The individual must have the permission of the superintendent:

- Permission may be verbal if school is closed due to inclement weather and a student cannot get home without the assistance of a school employee;
- Permission will be in the form of standing written permits for employees who use their own cars regularly for school purposes. This permit should state the specific school-related purpose and whether or not students are being transported;
- Permission may be in the form of one-time written permits for an approved trip involving students.
- Other situations are to be handled on a case-by-case basis by the superintendent.

Persons authorized to use their private vehicle for school-related purposes must provide evidence of adequate liability coverage.

The Asheboro City Schools assume no responsibility for liability in case of accident unless the person has the authorization specified above.

Sending students on errands with their private vehicles is expressly forbidden.

Legal References: 49 U.S.C. § 30125, 30165; G.S. 115C-239, -242; G.S. 20-280; G.S. 115C-42, -47(25), -239, -257, -258, -259; G.S. 143, art. 31; Memorandum to All Superintendents from Eddie M. Speas, Jr., Special Deputy Attorney General, January 14, 1988

Cross References: Insurance (policy 8340)

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Administrative Procedure: Yes