

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

SERIES 1000: STUDENTS

P1180

Non-Instructional Operations

TRANSPORTATION

General

It is the goal of the Board of Education (Board) to establish for the North Branford Public Schools an appropriate transportation system – one which will enable all qualified children of school age to attend school by school bus wherever transportation is required within guidelines set forth in this policy. The Superintendent of Schools (Superintendent) is responsible to the Board for the school transportation system.

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 regarding the operation of student transportation vehicles.

Definitions

School Transportation - the means by which a student is conveyed to or from his/her residence to or from the school in which he/she is enrolled by the Board at public expense, whether by use of publicly or privately owned vehicle. Such transportation shall be over paved public roads approved and maintained by the municipality/state or paved private roads approved pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-220C.

Walking Distance - the distance along a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student's residence and his/her school, from a point on a public road or highway nearest the student's residence to a point at the entrance of the school; or to a safe entrance to the school grounds; or to the student's assigned bus stop.

Walking Route – the assigned or authorized route a student walks to arrive at school or at the designated bus stop.

Riding Time – the time which a student spends on a school bus, or in a motor vehicle, from his/her bus stop to school or from the school to his/her bus stop.

Normal Transportation Time – The riding time under good weather conditions and normal traffic conditions from designated bus stop to/from school in district.

Student – any individual of school age enrolled in a public school within the school district.

Grade K - kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning student under age six.

Extreme Safety Hazard – an unsafe thing or condition presenting difficulties or problems the solution of which is beyond the ordinary capability of a student of a given age or attainment.

Routes and Services

The Superintendent or designee, in arranging student transportation, shall adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Maximum walking distances for students.
 - a. Students in grades K-5 – 1 mile.
 - b. Students in grades 6-8 - 1.5 miles.
 - c. Students in grades 9-12 – 2 miles.
2. Normal transportation time shall not exceed one hour.
3. Students shall not be required to walk to school or to a designated bus stop when a condition exists along the assigned route to school or to the bus stop which would present an extreme safety hazard to a student. The following shall be considered extreme safety hazards along walking routes.
 - a. (1) A street crossing where there are no stop signs or crossing guards;
 - (2) Any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty-five (45) miles per hour which do not have safety provisions at points where students must cross when going to or from school;
 - (3) The usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open man-holes, construction, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on walkways, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking areas at speeds in excess of five miles per hour.
- b. A lake, pond, stream, culvert or waterway having a depth of three or more feet, in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the student and the water.

- c. Any roadway, walkway, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes without a fence or other suitable barrier.
4. The school system Business Office will maintain a log of all reported bus safety concerns and/or complaints. This log will identify the bus number(s) involved, the date of safety violation, the date of report, the individual's name reporting the violation, definition of the condition as reported, the date and initials of the individual logging the complaint, and a space for logging completed and follow-up information. The school system Business Manager will review the logged complains regularly to insure that follow-up and completed actions are obtained.
5. Students with physical handicaps will be appropriately transported with the presentation of a doctor's certificate or pursuant to an individualized education program, as the case may be. The certificate will state the length of disability. On long-term transportation requests, certificates will be renewed annually.
6. A student may be suspended or excluded from transportation services in accordance with law and Board policy.

Policy Adopted: 11/15/01