

Walkers and Riders

The District shall arrange transportation for all elementary school students who live beyond one mile from their assigned school and to middle and high school students who live beyond one and one-half miles from their assigned school, and to students who are attending a school other than their assigned school pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) choice option. The same walking distance shall apply to the distance students are required to travel to established bus stops. If, in the opinion of the Superintendent or designee, transportation required for a student is uneconomical or unsafe, the Superintendent or designee may direct the administration to arrange "Type C" contracts with parents of those students.

Transportation shall be furnished for shorter distances if, in the opinion of the Board, extreme hardship or dangerous conditions prevail.

Authorized riders on school transportation shall include the following:

1. Students who reside outside of the walk-in distance and who are assigned to a bus route or stop.
2. Students and named sponsors who are approved to be part of an extracurricular activity trip.
3. Students approved for late activity trips.
4. Community groups who are part of an approved trip.
5. Parents, staff, and/or community members when authorized by the appropriate administrator and reviewed by the Superintendent (*or his/her designee*).
6. Students who have been granted an attendance variance and who wish to ride a bus on an established route that serves the school the student will be attending, must adhere to the following regulations:
 - a. Prior to a student who has been granted a variance being allowed to ride a bus that serves the school the student will be attending, the Director of Transportation will determine the number of students who are **eligible** to ride that bus on a daily basis. "Eligible riders" shall be the number of students who are entitled to ride on any given bus based on their residence in the assigned bus route area.
 - b. The Director of Transportation may allow a student to ride a bus if the approval does not cause the number of assigned students to increase the number over the capacity of the bus.
 - c. The parents/guardians of the student will be informed that that student is

approved or denied authorization to ride the bus, based on the number of students eligible to ride the bus and the capacity of the bus.

- d. If a student is approved to ride a bus, the parents/guardians will be informed that the approval is granted provided the addition of the student does not cause an overloading of the bus at any time during the school year. Should an overloading occur after the approval is granted due to an increase in the number of eligible riders, the parents/guardians will be informed that the student is no longer allowed to ride the bus and that the parents/guardians must provide transportation to and from school.

Parents/guardians will be required to sign a form stating that they understand the conditions of approval PRIOR to the time the student is allowed to ride the bus.

- e. Parents/guardians of students who are denied authorization to ride a bus or who are removed from a bus during the school year due to an overloading may request in writing no later than one week prior to the end of each nine week period that their child be reinstated on the bus. Reinstatement will occur only if it is determined by the Director of Transportation that the reinstatement would not cause the number of assigned students to exceed bus capacity.
- f. In making a determination as to which students will be approved/denied/removed, the Director of Transportation will utilize the criteria established when the variance was approved at the beginning of the school year. Parents/guardians who request a variance after decisions for the school year have been made will be placed at the bottom of the priority list.

CROSS REF.: Policy JC -- Student Attendance Areas