

POLICY

Upper Freehold Regional Board of Education

Section: Operations

8600. PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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8600- PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education shall transport eligible pupils to and from school and school related activities in accordance with law and this policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public and nonpublic school pupils, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

The Board will provide transportation to and from school for public school pupils in grades kindergarten through eight who live more than two miles from the school they attend and in grades nine through twelve who live more than two and one half miles from the school they attend. Pupils will be transported to and from one location within the school district that conforms to the conditions specified in this policy. All requests for transportation to and from any location other than the pupils domicile are contingent upon space availability on the bus assigned to the route for that bus stop.

The Board will transport pupils certified by a physician as temporarily disabled regardless of the distance between their home and school.

The Board will transport disabled pupils in accordance with Policy No. 8670.

~~The Board will consider the provision of transportation to those pupils not otherwise provided transportation by this policy when the Board determines walking conditions to be hazardous. The Board will designate hazardous routes and will consider, but shall not be limited to, the criteria outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5 in determining "hazardous routes."~~

The Board of Education will offer subscription bus transportation to and from pupils in accordance with Policy # 8611.

The Board will not be responsible for the transportation of nonresident pupils to or from school, except that transportation to and from school will be provided for homeless children for whom this district is determined to be the district of residence and for homeless children enrolled in this district when no district of residence has been determined and may be provided for Interdistrict Choice Students.

The Board will provide transportation of pupils remote from schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. The Board will transport resident children who attend a nonpublic or charter school in the State of New Jersey not more than twenty miles from their residence, but not a lesser distance from their residence than that required for the transportation of pupils enrolled in the schools of this district. Aid in lieu of transportation will be provided to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1. When the schools of this district are closed for inclement weather or other conditions, no transportation will be provided for pupils enrolled in any public or nonpublic school.

When the Board provides transportation of pupils to and from: county vocational schools and/or classified pursuant to chapter 46 of N.J.S.A. 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and/or when the Board has in the prior year provided payments in lieu of transportation for any nonpublic schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 or the Board cannot provide transportation in the ensuing school year the Board will utilize one of the agencies identified and published by the Commissioner of Education as providing cooperative transportation services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 1.1. The Board will attempt to use one of the agencies prior to determining to pay aid in lieu of transportation. The Board will provide to the agency any unique limitations or restrictions of the required transportation. When the costs to provide transportation by one of the agencies is less than the aid in lieu of payments, the Board will contract with the agency to provide transportation. The Board will make the determination on the manner in which transportation services shall be provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 and shall notify the nonpublic school and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the nonpublic school by August 1 prior to the beginning of the school year.

Transportation by one of these agencies will not be required when the local district can provide transportation at a lower cost than the agencies or the transportation provided by one of the agencies does not fall within the policies of the Board regarding length of ride and assignment of students to a route based on student age or classification.

The Board requires that all buses bid or purchased shall be equipped with seat belts. School bus drivers and all school bus passengers shall be required to wear seat belts when transported in school buses so equipped. Seat belts shall be fastened when the driver and passengers board the vehicle and they shall be kept fastened at all times while on board the vehicle. Seat belts may be unfastened only when the individual is departing the vehicle. The Board further requires that drivers and passengers using private vehicles to transport pupils wear seat belts in the same manner.

The Board requires every school bus bid or purchased that is used to transport public or non-public pupils will be equipped with a crossing control arm at the right front corner of the bus. The arm must open and extend out from the bus at least five feet each time the bus door is opened.

Buses used to transport pupils must meet state standards. The operation and fiscal management of the district's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education Policy and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation.

The Transportation Coordinator shall

1. Prepare a map of the district on which each bus stop and bus route is indicated or, alternatively, prepare an itinerary of bus routes that may be used in conjunction with a map of the school district;
2. Prepare and promulgate procedures to be followed in the event of a bus emergency and rules governing the conduct of all pupils transported by the Board;
3. Maintain such records and make such reports regarding school transportation as are required by the State Board of Education; and
4. Prepare the specifications for each bus route or contract for which proposals will be sought by the Board.
5. The Office of the Business Administrator shall coordinate the collection of subscription busing fees.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 27:15-16
N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6:21-1.1 et seq.; 6:21-2.1 et seq.

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