

Regional School District #19 Transportation Policy

I. Scope of Policy

Many students attending E.O. Smith High School are transported by local boards of education, through written agreements with those local boards of education. This transportation policy shall apply only to:

- a) the provision of daily school transportation by the Regional School District No. 19 Board of Education (the "Board of Education") to E.O. Smith students who are eligible for such transportation services and who reside in a town where such school transportation is not provided by the local board of education; and
- b) the transportation of E.O. Smith students for field trips and similar educational activities, where such transportation is provided by the Board of Education.

II. Statement of Policy

The Board of Education will provide transportation for students transported by Regional School District No. 19 under provisions of state law and regulations. In determining the provision of transportation, the Superintendent of Schools shall consider the guidelines contained in this policy and shall administer the operation so as to:

- A. provide for the safety of students;
- B. supplement and reinforce desirable student behavior patterns;
- C. assist disabled students appropriately.

Transportation by private carrier may be provided whenever such practice is more economical than using school district-owned/leased facilities. If parents volunteer, and the administration permits, parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible students whenever such practice is more economical or convenient for the school district. While receiving transportation services or engaging in any activities related to transportation, students are subject to all policies and regulations of the Board of Education.

III. Definitions

- A. "School transportation" means the procedure, program, or implemented plan by which a pupil is transported to and/or from school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads approved pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
- B. "Walking distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the pupil's residence and his/her school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil's residence to a point at the entrance of the school, or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school building entrance or the bus pick-up area, or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus or vehicle embarkation point established by the Board of Education.
- C. "One mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280 feet, but not more than 5,380 feet.
- D. "Hazard" means a thing or condition, as prescribed in this policy under "Hazardous Conditions" that affects the safety of pupils walking to and from school and/or a designated bus pick-up area.
- E. "Sidewalk" means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
- F. "Raised walk area" means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any painted safety markings along the street pavement.
- G. "Pupil" means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or nonprofit private school located within the school district or contiguous school district as the case may be.

IV. School Transportation Services for Students Transported by the Regional School District No. 19 Board of Education

A. Provision of Transportation

The Regional School District No. 19 Board of Education (the "Board") shall provide school transportation for E.O. Smith students who reside in a town where transportation is not provided by the local board of education and who are eligible for transportation services in accordance with the provisions of this policy. The following guidelines shall apply to such transportation:

1. School bus transportation is for students only.
2. Bus stops and bus routes are established to assist eligible students to be transported to and from schools using designated area stops.
3. School buses will operate on roads that are properly maintained and considered safe and appropriate for school bus travel, excluding private roads and roads not currently accepted by the town.
4. Bus stops are not established for the purpose of delivering students to their individual residences but are designed as area stops for the various neighborhoods throughout the community.
5. At any time during the school year, routes and times may be adjusted to assure timely arrival at the schools.

B. Superintendent's Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or his/her designee to manage and supervise the school transportation service and, in connection therewith, to do the following:

1. determine eligibility for school transportation, establish school transportation routes and designate locations for bus stops in accordance with the standards set forth in this policy and in accordance with applicable statutes;
2. ensure, where possible, that bus routes shall begin no earlier than one (1) hour before school opens and students shall not be in transit from school more than one (1) hour;
3. ensure, where possible, that walking distances for students who are provided transportation services do not exceed the following distances from their residence to the designation point of pickup:

grades 9-12 1½ miles

4. develop, circulate, and enforce codes of behavior for those children who are transported to and from school via school transportation; and develop procedures for student bus evacuation drills; and
5. maintain records of parent/guardian and/or citizen complaints of bus safety and act accordingly upon such complaints.

C. Hazardous Conditions

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall consider the following guidelines for hazardous conditions when making decisions regarding the transportation of children:

1. A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exist:
 - a) the absence of a traffic light or stop signs or crossing guard at an intersection where three or more streets intersect which has a traffic count which exceeds ninety vehicles per hour during the time that pupils are walking to or from school;
 - b) any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty miles per hour which does not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where pupils must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop; or
 - c) the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open man-holes, construction, snow plowed or piled on the walk area making walkways unusable, 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, and the like, including such nuisances which are hazardous or attractive to children.
2. Any street, road, or highway that has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist:
 - a) the presence of man-made hazards including attractive nuisances, as stated in 1(c) above; or
 - b) any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty-two feet; or
 - c) any roadway available to vehicles that, when plowed free of snow accumulations, does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty feet; or
 - d) any street, road, or highway where the line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Drivers Manual or Department of Transportation, Division of Design Standard, or other reasonable standard.

3. Any walkway, path, or bridge in an area adjacent or parallel to railroad tracks shall be considered hazardous unless a suitable physical barrier along the entire pedestrian route is present and fixed between pupils and the track; and any crossing of railroad tracks carrying moving trains during hours that pupils are walking to or from school or to and from a designated bus pick-up area shall be deemed hazardous unless:
 - a) a crossing guard is present; OR
 - b) a bar or red flashing signal light is operational.
4. Walking along 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. Applicability and Exceptions

1. This policy is applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
2. Special Education pupils and pupils eligible for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act shall be judged on an individual basis, and appropriate transportation provided.
3. The Superintendent of Schools may grant an exception to any guideline set forth in this policy where a peculiar condition or combination of conditions renders such condition(s) a hazard based upon reasonable judgment; or where under the circumstances, other conditions exist under which the safety of students necessitates a variance with the guidelines within this policy.

E. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure the safety of their children up until the point where they board the school bus. This includes the following:

1. select their children's walking routes to and from the bus stops and residences;
2. provide supervision that is appropriate to the student's age, the student's maturity, and conditions at the bus stop;
3. provide supervision of the children until they board the bus, after which the Board assumes supervisory responsibility. In the afternoon, parents/guardians assume supervisory responsibility when students get off the bus;
4. make certain that their children arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled school bus pick up for the morning bus routes. Bus pick up times may vary by several minutes.

V. Transportation Complaints Regarding Students Transported by the Board

The provisions of this section shall apply only to complaints concerning transportation provided by Regional School District No. 19. Any complaint received by the Superintendent concerning daily school transportation for a student residing in a town where such daily school transportation is provided by a local board of education shall be referred in writing to that local board of education.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop and implement a procedure for the reporting of all complaints relative to school transportation safety and shall cause to be maintained a written record of all such complaints received. The Superintendent shall provide to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, within thirty days of the end of the school year, a copy of the written record of complaints that were received during the previous twelve-month period.

Any complaint received by the Superintendent regarding a student transported by Regional School District No. 19 shall be promptly investigated by appropriate personnel. If a parent is not satisfied with the resolution of his/her complaint, the Board shall provide him/her with the opportunity for a school accommodations hearing held pursuant to Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Complaints concerning specialized transportation for students receiving services under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq. ("IDEA") shall be referred to a planning and placement team meeting as appropriate.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-221c Development of policy for reporting complaints regarding school transportation safety

14-275b Transportation of mobility impaired students.

14-275c Regulations re: school buses and motor vehicles used to transport special education students

Adopted: 08/03/2010

Revised: