

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Transportation

The District may provide transportation to and from school for a student:

- A. Whose residence is beyond the one mile radius from the school to which the student is assigned;
- B. Whose walking route to school is deemed by the District to be hazardous by reference to state criteria;
- C. Whose disability prevents him/her from walking, or from providing for his/her own welfare while walking; or,
- D. Who has another compelling and legally sufficient reason to receive transportation services.

The parent or guardian of, or person acting in loco parentis for, a student for whom transportation would be provided under this policy; or an adult student for whom transportation would be provided under this policy, may be reimbursed for alternate transportation of the student when the District determines that it is in the best interest of the student and the District.

The District's transportation program shall comply in all ways with the state law and regulation. Transportation services of the District may include approved bus routes, District-approved field trips, school activities (participants only), and extracurricular activities (rooters). The superintendent is authorized to permit District staff or the parent, guardian, or custodian of a student enrolled in the District to ride a bus when excess seating is available, and other transportation is not reasonably available.

The Board may authorize children attending an approved private school to ride a school bus provided that the bus route and stops are not altered, space is available, and a fee to cover the per seat cost for such transportation is collected.

Routes and Schedules

The superintendent shall be responsible for scheduling bus transportation, including the determination of routes and bus stops as well as overseeing the transportation program. The purpose of bus scheduling and routing is to achieve maximum service with a minimum fleet of buses insofar as this is consistent with rendering safe and reasonable equal service to all students entitled to such service. The director of transportation may authorize the use of another District-owned vehicle in lieu of a bus for transporting students to and from school.

In order to operate the transportation system as safely and efficiently as possible, the following factors shall be considered in establishing bus routes:

- A. Where an alternate route may be considered without sacrifice of efficiency or economy, preference shall be given to that route more directly serving the largest number of students.
- B. Location of bus stops may be determined by such factors as students' safety, economy, and efficiency. Students may be required to walk up to one mile from their home to their bus stop provided the route does not rate a score of 12 or more for a single condition, or 20 or more for two conditions on the State's Hazardous Walking Conditions rating system.
- C. School schedules shall be adjusted to allow maximum utilization of each bus in the system by alternating elementary and secondary trips.

The District shall apply for state transportation apportionment funds and shall maintain the records required to obtain such funding.

Emergency Routes and Schedules

The District shall develop emergency bus routes and schedules to be used when weather conditions make the usual routes impassable or, in the superintendent's judgment, too hazardous. Copies of emergency routes and schedules shall be distributed to parents with instructions on how to obtain emergency information.

If roads are closed to buses but not to private vehicles, the District may continue to operate the instructional programs of the schools without providing bus transportation until the roads are again open to buses.

Legal References:

RCW 28A.160 Student Transportation

RCW 28A.160.020 Authorization for private school students to ride buses--Conditions

RCW 28A.160.030 Authorizing individual transportation or other arrangements

WAC 392-141 Transportation State allocation for operations

WAC 392-172-035 Definitions of "free appropriate, public education," "adult student," "special education student," "parent," and "public agency"

WAC 392-172-204 Transportation Special Education

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