

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation between home area and school will be provided for each resident child attending a State-approved, nonpublic school in accordance with O.R.C. §3327.01. Transportation for students experiencing homelessness will be provided in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.

- A. All provisions of law, State Department of Education regulations, and local Board of Education regulations pertaining to transportation shall be in effect and shall be applied uniformly to all resident pupils.
- B. All determination of distances shall be made by authorized Board of Education personnel, and such determination shall govern the application of these policies.
- C. All determinations of distance shall be by the closest dedicated route and shall be to the edge of the school lot line from the edge of the home lot line.
- D. The supervision of pupils while riding the bus is the direct responsibility of the driver. Transportation will be denied to pupils whose conduct is such as to disturb good order and discipline. Such pupils will be referred to the appropriate principal for such other discipline as may be deemed necessary. The safety of all the pupils must be the primary concern in such instances.
- E. No ineligible pupil may be transported at any time without specific authorization from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee. There is no provision in law for the transportation of ineligible pupils with or without payment of fees.
- F. All exceptions will be granted for a period of one year only and will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- G. Exceptions granted by the administration will be documented in writing, including rationale for exceptions, to the Board of Education for informational purposes only.
- H. All students must ride their regularly scheduled bus to and from school unless they have a written request from their parent or legal guardian describing an emergency or unusual situation. These requests will be granted based on room on the bus. This note must be presented to the building principal on the morning of the request and a form completed.
- I. No student can be transported outside of the attendance area for his/her school.
- J. Students attending schools located within the School District and eligible for transportation are defined to include:
 - 1. Those students enrolled in Grades K through 5 who reside more than 1.3 miles from the school they attend.

Those students who live less than 1.3 miles from school may be served when the transportation director determines that such service does not increase the cost of transportation. Exceptions can only be made by the Director of Transportation. These approved bus stops will be posted annually.

2. Those students enrolled in Grades 6 through 12 who reside more than 2 miles from the school they attend.

Those students who live less than 2 miles from school may be served when the transportation director determines that such service does not increase the cost of transportation. Exceptions can only be made by the Director of Transportation. These approved bus stops will be posted annually.

3. Those students who are so physically or psychologically disabled as to require transportation regardless of place of residence and whose parents are willing to assume responsibility for mishaps that occur between the home and the school vehicle.
4. Those students who, because of ineligibility for transportation, would be exposed to “unreasonable hazards.” (Such “unreasonable hazards” are subject to the judgment of the Director of Transportation.)

K. Students residing in the School District and attending public and/or nonpublic schools located outside the boundaries of the Mentor Public School District.

1. Students attending schools located outside the School District and eligible for transportation are defined to include:

- a. Those students enrolled in Grades K through 5 who reside more than 1.3 miles from the school they attend.

Those students who live less than 1.3 miles from school may be served when the Director of Transportation determines that such service does not increase the cost of transportation. Exceptions can only be made by the Director of Transportation.

- b. Those students enrolled in Grades 6 through 12 who reside more than 2 miles from the school they attend.

Those students who live less than 2 miles from the school may be served when the transportation director determines that such services does not increase the cost of transportation. Exceptions can only be made by the Director of Transportation.

- c. Those students who are so physically or psychologically disabled as to require transportation regardless of place of residence.

- d. Those students who, because of ineligibility for transportation, would be exposed to “unreasonable hazards.”
- e. The Board of Education shall not be required to transport elementary or high school students to and from a public and/or nonpublic school where such transportation would require more than thirty (30) minutes of direct travel time as measured by the school bus from the collection point as designated by the Director of Transportation, appointed under Section 3327.011 of the Revised Code, for the attendance area of the district of residence.

L. Bus Stops

A list of approved bus stops will be submitted annually to the Superintendent by the Director of Transportation. Any additional bus stops must be approved by the Director of Transportation.

In an effort to accommodate childcare needs, a parent may request an alternate bus stop for his/her child(ren) within the schools’ attendance area. In order to honor first day of school requests, the request must be submitted by July 15 to the Director of Transportation. Otherwise, requests must be submitted ten days before requested date. Requests for alternate bus stops for childcare purposes must also be submitted in writing ten working days prior to implementation and must be approved by the Director of Transportation. Day Care Centers must be on the approved list for each elementary school to be honored. Such requests must include the appropriate address and the name of an adult individual who will supervise the child’s pick-up and/or arrival and have responsibility for same.

All bus stops must be located within the school attendance area and may not vary from week to week or day to day unless specified in the child’s IEP or by court order. The pick-up bus stop may differ from the drop-off bus stop.

Parents may request long term bus stop changes if the bus stop is on the approved list of bus stops. Requests must be submitted in writing and must be approved by the Director of Transportation. Such requests must include the appropriate address and the name of an adult individual who will supervise the child’s pick-up and/or arrival and have responsibility for same. Long term alternate bus stops may not vary from day to day. The pick-up bus stop may differ from the drop-off bus stop.

Students from shared parenting requesting changes must be documented by custody papers.

M. Student Regulation Policy

- 1. Each student transported shall, during the first twenty (20) days of school attendance, register or be registered by transportation department personnel for transportation on appropriate forms supplied by the transportation department. Such registration will be accomplished in accord with administrative regulations.

2. Each student shall receive from his/her vehicle operator or school a copy of local rules and regulations setting forth acceptable standard of conduct for bus riders which must implement and amplify State regulations established under Section 4511.76 and 3313.66 of the Ohio Code.

School Bus Transportation Program

In accordance with the standards prescribed by the Ohio Department of Education, the Board of Education shall present a school bus riding program to all students in Kindergarten through third grade who are offered bus transportation. Students in Kindergarten through third grade that transfer into the school system will also be provided bus safety instruction. The program shall consist of instruction in bus rider behavior, school bus safety, and the potential problems and hazards associated with school bus ridership. Bus stops will be approved annually by the Board of Education at their July Board meeting.

Students Experiencing Homelessness

- A. Transportation shall be provided homeless children and youth to and from the child's school of origin, if requested by the child's parent or guardian or the liaison on behalf of an unaccompanied youth.
- B. For transportation other than to the school of origin, transportation services shall be provided homeless children and youth that are comparable to services offered to other students.
- C. The District shall work to eliminate transportation issues that act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children.

LEGAL REFS: 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.; O.R.C. §§3327.01; 3327.16

Adopted: May 11, 2010