

CHAPTER 8.00 - AUXILIARY SERVICES

Student Transportation

8.13

- (1) The transportation program shall be administered to provide safe and efficient services at the lowest possible cost. Transportation funds shall be used primarily to provide transportation of students to the student's assigned school as determined by the School Board and in accordance with Florida Statutes.
- (2) The Superintendent shall direct the development and maintenance of a comprehensive transportation manual which shall set forth objectives, guidelines, and procedures for the School District's transportation services, and which shall be available for reference and review by interested parties.
- (3) Any student who resides two (2) or more miles from the student's assigned designated school by the most direct traveled route is eligible to ride the school bus to and from that school. These students shall be reported for funding purposes. Under the following conditions, students who reside within two (2) miles of the designated school may be eligible to ride the school bus.
 - (a) Special authorization is granted by the Superintendent and may include Hazardous Walking Area students who are eligible for State funding and Courtesy Rider students who are not eligible for State funding.
 - (b) An exceptional student may ride a school bus regardless of distance from home to school upon furnishing a statement from the Superintendent certifying that the student is handicapped and is unable to walk to school.
- (4) A student who is eligible for transportation and resides beyond the accessibility of a school bus may be provided transportation by payment from the School Board to the parent(s) or legal guardian for use of a private automobile or other conveyance for this purpose.
- (5) The School Board may cooperate with other school districts to provide transportation for students.
 - (a) When it is practical to extend a school bus route to serve any territory located in another school district, the School Board shall enter into an agreement with the School Board of the other school district to provide transportation services to students residing in the adjacent school district. Any such agreement shall be recorded in

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the official School Board minutes of each school board. The agreement shall state in detail the responsibility of each school board for operating the school bus and maintaining a daily schedule.

- (b) Whenever a school bus crosses a school district line, all Rules of the School Board shall apply to students transported by the said school board unless otherwise stated in the agreement between the school boards.
- (6) Only a student who is regularly enrolled as a transported student and whose name appears in the bus driver's handbook for that bus shall be permitted to ride such bus while it is being operated on a regular school bus route except upon the written request of the Transportation Supervisor. Such approval may be granted only when the student's welfare is involved due to an emergency condition in the home. When an emergency condition exceeds five (5) school days, the Superintendent's approval shall be required. Approval shall not be allowed for:
- (a) Student visitation, unless duly authorized; and
 - (b) A student to obtain transportation to the student's regular place of employment.
- (7) No person shall be eligible for transportation on a field trip or extracurricular school trip unless authorized by the principal.
- (8) Maximum regard for the safety of students and due consideration for the protection of health of all students transported shall be primary requirements in the routing of buses, establishing student stops, appointing drivers, and in providing and operating transportation equipment.
- (9) A student who arrives early or remains late because of transportation service shall be under school supervision at all times and shall, if practicable, have a planned schedule of activities. The principal shall be responsible for providing such supervision.
- (10) Each route shall be planned and adjusted as nearly as possible to the bus capacity. Travel time each morning and afternoon shall be considered in planning and establishing bus routes and, so far as practical, not exceed fifty (50) minutes for elementary students and sixty (60) minutes for secondary students. Travel time is defined as the period of time each individual student spends on the bus while the bus is in motion.

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- (11) Each student who is transported shall be entitled to free transportation provided the student abides by the rules of safety and behavior necessary to operate the School District's transportation system and the Code of Student Conduct. Serious infraction of these rules may result in the loss of the student's privilege. The student's parent(s) shall be responsible for making sure the student abides by the rules or for providing the student's transportation. Suspension from a bus shall not affect the attendance laws and rules. Penalties for violation of these rules shall be uniformly applied throughout the School District as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.
- (12) Specific permission shall be obtained from the Superintendent for non-bus students to be permitted regularly to ride a scheduled bus. Emergency permission for bus services of a short duration may be granted by a principal. No student shall exit the school bus on the student's way to or from school without the student's parent(s) and the principal's written authorization except at the student's assigned school or the student's assigned bus stop.
- (13) Periodically student transportation routes and student walking conditions shall be reviewed to determine whether hazardous conditions exist. Appropriate requests for designation of hazardous conditions shall be provided as required by state law or State Board of Education rules.
- (14) The transportation of students in privately-owned motor vehicles for educational field trips or school-sponsored or school-related events shall be approved by the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis pursuant to Florida Statutes, except in an emergency situation. Drivers of such vehicles shall be required to show proof of insurance coverage at the minimum limits required by Florida Statutes and at other limits that may be required by the School Board. Vehicles shall not transport numbers beyond their rated capacity. Appropriate safety measures such as use of seat belts shall be observed.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

1001.42, F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED:

**1001.31; 1001.43; 1006.21; 1006.22;
1006.23; 1006.24; 1011.68, F.S.**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE:

6A-3.001; 6A-3.017

HISTORY:

**ADOPTED: 08/18/98
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