

TRANSPORTATION

It is the policy of the Board to provide transportation for those students whose distance from their school makes this service necessary within the limitations established by State law and the regulations of the State of Florida. Such laws and rules shall govern any question not covered by this policy.

School buses shall be purchased, housed, and maintained by the District for the transportation of resident students between their home areas and the schools of the District to which they are assigned.

Students living more than two (2) miles from their home school will be eligible for District provided bus transportation. Students who attend school out of their home school zone will not be eligible for District provided transportation. Students shall board the bus at the nearest designated stop and will not enter or leave the bus at any other designated stop. In the event of an emergency, the principal may approve an exemption to the student's designated bus stop on a temporary basis.

Parents/guardians are responsible to ensure the safe travel of their students during each trip to and from home and the assigned bus stop when the school district provides bus transportation.

Students living within two (2) miles of school may be provided District bus transportation under the following conditions:

- A. Permanently disabled students, whose Individual Education Plan requires special transportation; or;
- B. Temporarily disabled students upon request and verification of disability and length of time of disability; or
- C. Elementary students in kindergarten through sixth grade who must walk through an area that meets the State criteria for hazardous walking conditions or area designated by the Board; or
- D. Elementary students residing within two (2) miles of their school may be provided bus transportation at the discretion of the principal and upon payment of a fee established by the Board. This transportation will only be provided if seats are available on existing buses serving the school and the student gets to an established bus stop.

Students eligible for transportation who are beyond the accessibility of school bus transportation shall be provided isolated transportation by payment to the parent of an amount established by the Board. Payment of the amount established will be based upon the date of the application or the date the service began whichever occurred first during the current attendance reporting period.

Parents of students who become or are determined to be non-eligible for school bus transportation shall be notified in writing. The student will be allowed to ride the bus for ten (10) additional school days depending on the circumstances of the non-eligibility. With the approval of the Superintendent, the ten (10) days may be extended. If the student was riding the school bus illegally, removal from the bus will be immediate.

Bus routes shall be established so that one authorized bus stop is available within reasonable walking distance of the home of every resident student entitled to transportation services. The Board shall approve the bus routes annually. The Superintendent is authorized to make any necessary changes in the approved route.

The Board authorizes the installation and use of video recording devices in the school buses to assist the drivers in providing for the safety and well-being of the students while on a bus.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and implementing appropriate administrative procedures for this policy.

The school principal shall assume responsibility under the direction of the Superintendent for all student disciplinary cases which arise in connection with transportation in accordance with Florida statute, Florida School Board Rule, and the Student Code of Conduct.

The school principal shall:

- A. Instruct students as a part of their safety program on the rules pertaining to student transportation, walking to and from school, bicycle, and other vehicle operations; and
- B. Develop at each school a parking policy for the safety of students, visitors, and staff while operating or parking personal vehicles on campus and; and

- C. Conduct, at a minimum, during the first six (6) weeks of each semester, school bus evacuation drills.

F.S. 1006.21, 1006.22
F.A.C. 6A-3

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