

Business/Non Instructional Operations

Transportation

The Board of Education shall provide transportation for students under provisions of state law and regulations. The Superintendent of Schools is directed to administer the transportation system so as to:

1. Provide for the safety of the students.
2. Insure desirable student behavior while students are being transported.
3. Arrange appropriate modified transportation for handicapped students based on need.
4. Employ bus contractors.

Transportation by private carrier may be provided whenever such practice is preferable to using school district-owned vehicles. A parent may be reimbursed for the transportation of an eligible student(s) whenever such a practice is justified by economics, district inconvenience, hazards, location, or any other reason deemed justifiable by the Superintendent.

Personal Qualifications

1. Bus contracts shall be awarded to individuals who are at least 21 years of age. A bus contract holder shall become ineligible to drive upon reaching his/her 70th birthday.
2. Prior to the granting of a contract, the Superintendent shall insure that each applicant is interviewed to help to determine the applicant's suitability as a bus contract holder. The Superintendent shall, as part of the selection procedures, secure a police background check on all candidates and a detailed history of any driving accidents or infractions.
3. Prospective bus contract holders shall furnish a list with the names of five (5) people each of whom is willing to submit a written character reference for the applicant.

License

Each bus contract recipient and bus operator shall hold a public service license which covers the type of vehicle driven.

Medical Examination

Prior to the opening of school each fall, each bus contract holder shall submit to the Superintendent, a copy of his/her most recent, legally required, medical examination.

Drivers

Prior to the opening of school in the fall, each bus contract holder shall submit, the name or names of duly licensed bus drivers who may operate the school bus(es).

Insurance

Each bus contract holder shall be insured for coverage with limitations and in a form acceptable with carriers and to district administration with combined single limits required by the district administration or by law (whichever is greater) as follows: \$1,000,000 personal property; \$1,000,000 for each person; and \$1,000,000 for each accident.

Maintenance

1. Each bus contract holder is required to maintain his/her bus(es) in excellent operable condition. Any bus contract holder whose bus fails to pass state inspection, because of improper maintenance or other causes considered to be hazardous to the safe transportation of students, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

2. Any bus contract holder found guilty of operating a bus declared operationally unsafe shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Superintendent and the Board of Education.
3. The Superintendent is empowered to take whatever steps he/she deems necessary in cases where bus contract holders have violated the policy in proper maintenance of a bus. The Superintendent's action will be reviewed by the Board of Education at its first regular meeting or a special meeting subsequent to the action of the Superintendent.

Bus Routes/Bus Stops

The Board of Education desires to provide an effective, efficient, and safe transportation system.

Bus routes shall be established under the direction of the Superintendent. The establishment of bus routes shall take into consideration time on the road, hazardous conditions, crossing highways, distribution of students, and other safety factors. Safety of students shall be a primary consideration.

The designation of bus stops shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent. Safety shall be determined by road visibility, waiting areas for students, distance from the bus stop to the home, walking terrain to the stop, and other such pertinent factors.

Dead-end or Cul-de-sac Roads

1. These roads will be traversed if the distance to the furthest house in which a Beecher Road School student resides is greater than .5 mile (grades K-2) or .8 mile (grades 3-6).
2. These roads may be traversed if the road is to be used for bus turn-around purposes.
3. Students who reside on such roads will be picked up at the juncture of the road and the nearest thoroughfare.
4. When necessary, students will wait for the bus at the designated spots located at least 50 feet from the thoroughfare (bus stop) with such pick up locations designated by the school district.

Thoroughfares

1. Thoroughfares which are state highways with posted speeds at or above 40 mph: whenever possible (safety, bus turnarounds, etc.), students will be picked up and discharged at or near the driveway of their residency in such a way as to preclude a student from having to cross the state highway.
2. Thoroughfares which are relatively major traffic arteries, but not state highways, specifically Newton Road, Peck Hill Road, and Northrop Road: when sight lines for a child are inadequate and unsafe for the bus, children will be picked up and discharged at or near the driveway of their residency. Students will be asked to cross these highways to board or disembark from the bus when sight lines are adequate.
3. Cul-de-sac provisions for non-traversed thoroughfares: some thoroughfares may not need to be traversed. In such cases these guidelines apply:
 - a. These roads will be traversed if the distance to the furthest house in which a Beecher Road School student resides is greater than .5 mile (grades K-2) or .8 mile (grades 3-6).
 - b. These roads may be traversed if the road is to be used for bus turn-around purposes.
 - c. Students who reside on such roads will be picked up at the juncture of the road and the nearest traversed thoroughfare.
 - d. When necessary, students will wait for the bus at designated spots located at least 50 feet from the traversed thoroughfare (bus stop) with such pick up locations designated by the school district.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students, when asked to wait or disembark at a bus stop in the absence of older students, will be picked up and disembarked at a point as near as possible to the driveway to their home.

Walking Distance

The maximum walking distance from home to a designated bus stop shall be no more than one-half mile for kindergarten, transition, and first grade students and no more than one mile for second through sixth grade students.

Hazardous Conditions

Students shall not be required to walk to a bus stop if a hazardous condition exists en route, provided that an alternative stop is available.

1. Any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of thirty-nine miles per hour, which does not have pedestrian crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where students must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop, shall be deemed hazardous.
2. The frequent presence of any tempting, but dangerous nuisance such as open manholes, a narrow bridge or a bridge without sufficient side barriers, bridge, road or guard rail construction, and the like, shall be deemed a hazard.
3. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalk or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous when 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 guidelines.
4. A lake, pond, or stream within 50 feet of the walkway, culvert, water-way, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the designated route of the student and the hazard.
5. Any area adjacent to a roadway, walkway, sidewalk, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established walkway with the absence of a fence, guardrails or other suitable barrier shall be deemed a hazard.
6. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route for students which passes through an area which has a recent history of aggressive acts of molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when students ordinarily walk to or from shall be deemed hazardous.
7. Walking to or from the bus stop at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise or any time one-half hour after sunset shall be deemed a hazard.

Extensions

The Superintendent may approve extensions and modifications of a bus route for medical (student) and other reasons provided that road conditions are such that the bus can operate safely and efficiently. The Superintendent may grant exceptions for health or medical reasons only upon the submission of an application which includes a physician's certificate that the student merits special consideration.

Handicapped Students

Transportation arrangements for handicapped students shall be determined by the Superintendent on an individual case basis.

Non-Public School

Transportation shall be provided by the school district to Woodbridge students attending private, non-profit elementary schools within Woodbridge.

Transportation will not be provided by the school district to Woodbridge students attending private elementary schools located outside of Woodbridge.

Transportation Equipment

No buses or other transportation vehicles shall be used for transporting school children to and from school or on school-sponsored activities which minimally do not conform to the requirements of law and the regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Student Conduct on Buses

The Board of Education considers the transportation of students a privilege to be enjoyed by eligible students and believes the safety of students while on school buses to be of paramount importance. The

Superintendent shall develop regulations governing student conduct while on school buses and in loading and unloading areas, with these regulations written to stress student safety.

Disciplinary Action

The driver is responsible to monitor the conduct of students on the bus. The driver has no authority to take disciplinary action against a student other than to reprimand, change a student's seat on the bus, explain a rule, ask a student to refrain from breaking rules, or ask a parent to help improve student's conduct. The driver shall report all major violations of bus regulations to the Principal of the school. The Principal has the responsibility for disciplinary action in such cases.

Suspension of Bus Privileges

Consistent or flagrant violations of regulations of the Superintendent pertaining to student conduct on buses may result in the temporary or permanent suspension of bus privileges for a student. The Principal may suspend bus privileges temporarily for infractions of those regulations; and the Board of Education can revoke bus privileges permanently.

Parents may appeal any suspension of bus privileges to the Superintendent and, if dissatisfied with his/her decision, to the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education

10-220 Duties of boards of education

14-275 Equipment and color of school buses

14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when.

14-275b Transportation of handicapped students.

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

14-276a (c) Town/school district may require its school bus operators to have completed a safety training course.

14-280 Letters and signals to be concealed when not used in transporting children. Signs on other vehicles.

20 U.S.C. NCLB Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Title I, Section 1116

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, 42 U.S.C., Sections 11431-11435

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WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Woodbridge, Connecticut