

ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Enfield, Connecticut

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

3541

Transportation of Students

I. Transportation of Students

The Board of Education will provide transportation for students under provisions of state law and regulations. The Superintendent of Schools shall administer the operation.

Transportation by private carrier may be provided whenever such practice is more economical than using school district-owned/leased facilities. Parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible students whenever such practice is more economical or convenient.

Transportation will be provided to/from a student's care provider (daycare, or responsible adult) at a bus stop near the provider's location only if the provider is located within the student's assigned school district based on the student's legal residence and within the area served by the school. Transportation to a care provider outside a school's service area will not be provided by the Enfield Public School System.

A. Eligibility

Resident public and private nonprofit school students living outside of the defined walking limits (subparagraph 1. below), based on the most direct route from the student's home beginning at a point at the curb or edge of a public road or highway nearest the home to the edge of the school property or bus pickup areas, will be furnished transportation by the Board of Education. Students will be eligible for school transportation if one or more of the following criteria are present:

1. The walking distance for the student, either to school or to the nearest bus stop, is in excess of the following distances:
 - a. For students enrolled in grades K through 2, up to one (1) mile;
 - b. For students enrolled grades 3 through 5 one and one quarter (1.25) miles;
 - c. For students. enrolled in grades 6 through 12, one and one half (1.5) miles.
2. The walking route does not exceed the limits set forth in subparagraph 1. above, but presents hazardous conditions (described in Section II below) which the Board cannot reasonably eliminate or adequately abate.

II. Hazardous Conditions

A. Descriptions

1. A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exist:

Transportation of Students**II. Descriptions** (continued)

- a. For students enrolled in grades K through 2, absence of pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and at street crossing where there are no stop signs or crossing guards and the traffic count during the time that students are walking to or from school exceeds sixty vehicles per hour at the intersection;
 - b. For students enrolled in grades 3 through 12, the absence of a traffic light or stop signs or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect and has a traffic count which exceeds ninety vehicles per hour during the time that students are walking to or from school;
 - c. For all students, any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty miles per hour which do not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where students must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop;
 - d. For all students, the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open man-holes, construction, snow plowed or piled on the walk area making walkways unusable, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on walkways, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking entrances at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, and the like, including such nuisances which are hazardous or attractive to children.
2. Any street, road, or highway, which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist:
 - a. For students enrolled in grade K through 2, any street, road, or highway possessing a traffic count of sixty or more vehicles per hour at the time that students are walking to or from schools;
 - b. For all students, the presence of man-made hazards inducing attractive nuisances, as stated in number d. above;
 - c. For all students any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty-two feet;
 - d. For all students any roadway available to vehicles when plowed free of snow accumulations, that does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty feet; and
 - e. For students enrolled in grades K through 2, any street, road, or highway possessing speed limits in excess of thirty miles per hour.

Transportation of Students**II. Hazardous Conditions****A. Descriptions (continued)**

3. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks 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 Connecticut Department of Transportation, Division of Design.
4. Any walkway, path or bridge in an area adjacent or parallel to railroad tracks shall be considered hazardous unless a suitable physical barrier along the entire pedestrian route is present and fixed between students and the track; and any crossing of railroad tracks that carry moving trains during hours that students are walking to or from school shall be deemed hazardous unless, (1) a crossing guard is present or (2) an automatic control bar is present at crossings used by students in grades K through 2, or a bar or red flashing signal light is operational when the crossing is used by students in grades 3 through 12.
5. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, water-way, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the student and the water for students in grades K through 2.
6. Any area adjacent to a roadway, sidewalk, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes, the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier shall be deemed hazardous for students in grades K through 2.
7. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route for all school students which pass through an area which has a 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 school shall be deemed hazardous.
8. Walking to or from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one half-hour before sunrise or any time one half-hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous for students in grades K through 5.

B. Private Roads

These guidelines are applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-220c.

Transportation of Students**III. Exceptions**

- A. The Enfield Board of Education may grant exceptions to any provision of this guideline when in reasonable judgment the peculiar conditions or combination of conditions eliminate or significantly mitigate any substantive risk to student safety implied by a described hazard. The Enfield Board of Education may grant exceptions to any provision of this guideline when in its reasonable judgment particular conditions or combinations of conditions create a hazard not described.
- B. The Superintendent may grant temporary exceptions to ineligibility of students when in his/her reasonable judgment a temporary hazard exists (e.g., construction affecting a walking route). The Superintendent will communicate transportation conditions and arrangements to the parents or legal guardians of each student affected and will provide the Board with current information regarding the status of each case.
- C. Special Education students and students eligible for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act shall be judged on an individual basis.

IV. Definitions

- A. *School transportation* means the procedure, program, or fully effective and implemented plan by which a student is conveyed to and/or from school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads approved pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-220C.
- B. *Walking distance* means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student's residence and his/her school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the student's residence to a point at the entrance of the school or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school building entrance or the bus stop pick-up area, or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus or vehicle embarkation point established by the Enfield Board of Education.
- C. *One-mile walking distance* means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280 feet but not more than 5,380 feet.
- D. *Grade K* means kindergarten or a school program appropriate to a beginning student.
- E. *Hazard* means a thing or condition, as prescribed in these guidelines, affecting the safety of students walking to and from school.

Transportation of Students**IV. Definitions (continued)**

- F. *Sidewalk* means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
- G. *Raised walk area* means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any painted safety markings along the street pavement.
- H. *Student* means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or nonprofit private school located within the school district or contiguous school district as the case may be.

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

Policy Adopted: December 12, 2018