

TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education shall transport eligible pupils to and from school and school related activities in accordance with law and this policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public and nonpublic school pupils, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

The Board will provide transportation to and from school for public school pupils in grades one to eight who live more than two miles from the school they attend. All kindergarten students will be transported to and from the school they attend.

The Board will transport pupils certified by a physician as temporarily disabled regardless of the distance between their home and school.

The Board will transport educationally disabled pupils in accordance with Policy No. 3541.36.

The Board will consider the provision of transportation to those pupils not otherwise provided transportation by this policy when the Board determines walking conditions to be hazardous.

The Board will not be responsible for the transportation of nonresident pupils to or from school, except that transportation to and from school will be provided for homeless children for whom this district is determined to be the district of residence and for homeless children enrolled in this district when no district of residence has been determined.

The school bus driver shall be responsible for the discipline of students while they are transported to or from school. When student conduct requires stringent discipline, the driver shall report it to the building principal. A student may be suspended from bus transportation by the principal for disciplinary reasons, in which the parents are responsible for the student's transportation.

The Board's only responsibility is to transport eligible students to and from their homes. It is possible that children attending the Mount Laurel Schools might also be attending a nursery/day care school. Transportation shall not be provided to or from private nursery schools or any location other than the designated bus stops of the students. However, locations other than the designated stops of the students may be approved if the following conditions are met:

1. The proposed stops are within the attendance area of the students' assigned school.
2. The stops are or can be located on the existing routes of the students' assigned school.
3. A written request for the exception is submitted by the parent and approved by the Superintendent or his or her designee; and

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4. the request is made for a five day a week basis, not on a rotating schedule, and with the intent that the transportation arrangements requested would be for the full year.

The Board will also transport resident children who attend a nonpublic school in the State of New Jersey not more than twenty miles from their residence, but not a lesser distance from their residence than that required for the transportation of pupils enrolled in the schools of this district. When the schools of this district are closed for inclement weather or other conditions, no transportation will be provided for pupils enrolled in any public or nonpublic school.

The Board requires that all buses bid or purchased after September 8, 1992 shall be equipped with seat belts. School bus drivers and all school bus passengers shall be required to wear seat belts when transported in school buses so equipped not later than September 7, 1994. Seat belts shall be fastened when the driver and passengers board the vehicle and they shall be kept fastened at all times while on board the vehicle. Seat belts may be unfastened only when the individual is departing the vehicle. The Board further requires that drivers and passengers using private vehicles to transport pupils wear seat belts in the same manner.

Buses used to transport pupils must meet state standards. The operation and fiscal management of the district's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education Policy and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation.

The Transportation Coordinator shall:

1. Prepare a map of the district on which each bus stop and bus route is indicated or, alternatively, prepare an itinerary of bus routes that may be used in conjunction with a map of the school district.
2. Prepare and promulgate procedures to be followed in the event of a bus emergency and rules governing the conduct of all pupils transported by the Board.
3. Maintain such records and make such reports regarding school transportation as are required by the State Board of Education; and
4. prepare the specifications for each bus route or contract for which proposals will be sought by the Board.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations governing the transportation of students whose parents reside in more than one residence in the township.

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 27:15-16
N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6:3-8.9; 6:21-1 et seq.
N.J.P.L. 1992, Chapter 92

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