

Policy

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND SERVICES

It is recognized that the Medford Lakes Schools are within a walking/biking community and as such only provides transportation according to state code. Parents and students are encouraged to use safe practices in walking and biking such as in the use of bike courtesy routes and crossing only at those points maintained with a crossing guard and driving students during inclement weather.

The board of education directs the Superintendent to supervise development of bus routes to provide safe, economical and reasonably expeditious transportation for:

- A. Pupils who live remote from the schoolhouse as defined by New Jersey law;
- B. Educationally disabled pupils in accordance with their IEP;
- C. Pupils participating in board-approved extracurricular activities or field trips;
- D. Pupils whose route to the school is deemed hazardous by the board;
- E. Other pupils as required by law.

The criteria to be used in designing routes and assigning pupils to them shall include:

- A. The distance to be traveled to and from school;
- B. The age and state of health of the child;
- C. The requirements of the instructional program;
- D. The hazards involved on the route to be traveled.

Criteria for hazardous routes will be made in conjunction with the chief law enforcement officer of the community.

Transportation to and from school shall be provided as required by law to eligible nonpublic school pupils and to pupils attending charter schools. All pupils riding on district buses shall be required to observe the district's bus conduct regulations or risk loss of the privilege of such transportation.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND SERVICES (continued)

On a space-available basis, the board may transport both public and nonpublic students who live within statutory limits (courtesy busing). The board or a cooperative transportation services agency may charge for this service. The charge shall be equitable and shall include, but not be limited to, the cost of fuel, driver salaries and insurance.

Buses, whether contracted or district-owned, shall be kept in optimum condition and shall conform to all state safety regulations.

Bus routes must be acted upon by the board and submitted to the county office.

Courtesy Transportation Along Hazardous Routes

The Medford Lakes Board of Education is concerned with the safety of students who walk to and from school along roadways determined to be hazardous routes. The Superintendent shall work in conjunction with municipal officials to determine the criteria necessary for the classification of a hazardous route and shall maintain a list of all hazardous routes in the district. The Superintendent shall develop rules and regulations to supply courtesy transportation for students who must walk to and from school along routes designated by the Medford Lakes School District to be hazardous routes. The criteria used to determine hazardous routes may include but shall not be limited to the following:

- A. Population density;
- B. Traffic volume;
- C. Average vehicle velocity;
- D. Existence or absence of sufficient sidewalk space;
- E. Roads and highways that are winding or have blind curves;
- F. Roads or highways with steep inclines and declines;
- G. Drop-offs that are close proximity to a sidewalk;
- H. Bridges or overpasses that must be crossed to reach the school;
- I. Train tracks or trestles that must be crossed to reach the school;
- J. Busy roads and highways that must be crossed to reach the school.

Students who would otherwise be required to walk to and from school along routes designated as hazardous shall be included in the calculation of the district's regular vehicle capacity utilization.

Date: Reviewed: May 17, 2000; May 15, 2002; April 13, 2011

Readopted: May 17, 2000; January 21, 2004; June 8, 2011

Legal References: Use legal reference sheet.

Cross References: List your appropriate policies. See legal reference sheet for possibilities.

Key Words

Pupil Transportation, Transportation, Busing, Buses, Courtesy Busing, Nonpublic School Pupils, Student Transportation

Legal References

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND SERVICES

Monitored:

Indicator 7.5

Mandated:

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5 requires districts that provide courtesy busing to adopt a policy regarding the transportation of students who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1(b) requires policies and procedures governing transportation of pupils to and from school and school-related activities. See also 3541.31 if applicable.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 requires policies and procedures to be followed by the school bus driver in the event of an emergency. Policies and practices should ensure that all drivers comply with all directives in the administrative code. See 3541.33.

Other Reasons:

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.2 allows municipalities to charge parents/guardians for transporting students who live within the statutory limits (courtesy busing) and contract with the board for those services.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.3 through -1.4 allows boards of education or cooperative transportation services agencies to contract with parents/guardians for transporting students who live within the statutory limits (courtesy busing). Parents/guardians may be charged all or part of the cost of transportation, but may not be excluded due to financial hardship.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.8 through -1.9 allows boards to charge parents/guardians all or part of the costs for courtesy busing for elementary and secondary students who live within the statutory limits. The board must inform the Department of Education when it elects to provide transportation under these provisions.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1 requires the board to provide transportation or aid in lieu of transportation to eligible non-public school pupils.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-3.1 sets out board responsibilities for transportation of students attending charter schools.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1 requires transportation for students with special needs according to their IEP.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 require transportation to homeless students, students residing in group homes, and students in shared custody homes, in accordance with code.

3541-1lr

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND SERVICES (continued)

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.2(e) requires that a contractor be notified in writing when the board detects that the contractor has failed to comply with the board's transportation rules.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-13.3 directs the county superintendent of schools to review the district's transportation operations in accord with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.4(a)7.

Recommendation:

A policy directing the Superintendent to develop procedures to provide safe, efficient, economical busing, per the parameters of the policy and in accordance with law. Policy must address both public and nonpublic pupil transportation; should address courtesy busing clearly, especially if the board requires parents/guardians to pay for all or part of it. Bus safety policies and procedures should be addressed in depth at 3541.33.

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-25</u>	Transportation aid
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.6</u>	Transportation (budget line item)
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-13</u>	Transportation services (charter schools)
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.</u>	Transportation To and From Schools
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.2</u> through -1.9	
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:46-19.6</u>	Transportation to location or maintenance of vehicular classrooms to obtain services; payment of cost
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:46-23</u>	Transportation of pupils; special classes; handicapped children; state aid
	<u>N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.9 et al.</u>	New Jersey Commercial Drivers License Act
	<u>N.J.S.A. 39:3-27</u>	Free registration of certain vehicles; transfer to other motor vehicles
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 et seq.</u>	Student Transportation
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1(b), -2.1,</u> <u>-3.1, -5.1, -6.2, -6.3, -6.4,</u> <u>-9.1(e), -11.1, -13.3</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
	<u>Parents for Student Safety, Inc., v. Morris Bd. of Ed., 1986 S.L.D. (February 5), St. Bd. rev'g 1984 S.L.D. (August 24), aff'd App. Div., unreported decision (docket no. A-3257-85-T7, decided February 17, 1987) certif. den. 108 N.J. 180 (1987)</u>	
	<u>Wayne Board of Education v. Kraft et al., 139 NJ 597 (1995)</u>	
	<u>Policies and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation, N.J. State Department of Education</u>	
	<u>Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts</u>	

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND SERVICES (continued)

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*3220/3230	State funds; federal funds
	*3516	Safety
	*3541.31	Privately owned vehicles
	*3541.33	Transportation safety
	*4211	Recruitment, selection and hiring
	*5200	Nonpublic school pupils
	*6145	Extracurricular activities
	*6153	Field trips

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.