

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS:

Regular to and from Student Transportation

Elementary students residing more than 1.0 mile, and middle school and high school students residing more than 1.0 radial mile (from the school flag pole) from the school assigned to service their individual attendance area will be furnished transportation over approved routes, except that one-half day kindergarten students residing more than 0.5 miles and transported to-and-from school mid-day, shall be furnished transportation. Determination of areas eligible for transportation because of these distances shall be made by the Transportation Department whose decision shall be final.

Routes & Stops

Bus routes and stops will be designed to provide safe and efficient transportation within the provisions of this policy. Approved routes and designated stops will be established so that the distance from the residence to or from a designated stop may be equal but not exceed the distance from school for each level as established above. Except in unusual circumstances caused by such factors as safety or appropriate loading areas, buses will not stop within the designated mileage limits.

Exceptions for Safety

When students' safety is a contributing factor, exceptions to the transportation limitations may be granted. The determination of safety conditions to and from school shall be made by the safe walk determination process.

Review of Exceptions

At least one time each year, the Transportation Department shall examine all situations where exceptions have resulted in transportation being provided within the limits established of this policy. If it is determined that the contributing safety factor no longer exists or that this transportation policy is not being consistently applied, the service shall be withdrawn.

Transporting Large Objects on School Buses

WAC 392-145-015(5) states that "Heavy sharp, bulky and/or other articles which may be hazardous in the event of an accident or an emergency stop shall not be transported in the passenger area of a school bus. Skateboards must be in a sturdy bag to be brought onto the school bus. Brown grocery bags or plastic grocery bags are not acceptable.

Students Transferred at District Direction Because of Special Programs

Students transferred to a school outside their attendance area because of space requirements, special education programs, and other such transfers will be provided transportation when the transfer is determined to be in the best interests of the school district.

Routing Policy

In order to return more funds to the classroom the school board has directed that the Transportation Department become more efficient. Consequently, bus routes and stops will be affected accordingly. For middle school children expect standard routes (not changes year to year), less but more central bus stops on central roads and locations.

Route Changes

Route changes will be approved only after careful and deliberate review by the Transportation Department. Parents may request route changes by telephone or in writing using the form ["Request for Bus Route Change"](#). The only exception is to file a safe walk appeal request (see "Safe Walk procedures). "Courtesy and Convenience" bus stops route changes will not normally be made or the route changed to accommodate such requests. Such changes have a detrimental effect on other students and result in increased cost and time on the bus route. Additionally, it is unfair to accommodate a request for a courtesy bus stop for one student (or students) and not do it for others.

Route changes once approved will not be immediately implemented. Approved changes need to be processed into the routing data base, drivers informed and all affected riders and parents informed. Riders and parents will be informed on average 10 days before the route change is to take affect via a form sent home with the student rider. There can be exceptions to the 10 day notice if the route change is needed immediately for safety purposes or the route is a special education route.