

Management Support

Transportation

The district may provide, transportation to and from school for any student living in the district:

1. Whose residence is beyond the one-mile radius from the school to which the student is assigned; or
2. Whose walking route to school is determined to be hazardous by the district through the state walk area evaluation process; or
3. Whose disability as defined by state standards, prevents the student from walking or providing for the student's own welfare while walking; or
4. Who has another compelling and legally sufficient reason to receive transportation services.

At the request of an eligible student, the district may allow the student to transport their infant on a school bus or other student transportation vehicle provided by the district. The infant must be transported in a rear-facing child restraint system as defined in the federal motor vehicle safety standards found in 49 C.F.R. § 572.213. If the district denies the student's request to transport their infant by school bus, the district must authorize other arrangements for individual transportation in accordance with RCW 28A.160.030. For purposes of this paragraph, "eligible student" means any student served by the transportation program of the district or compensated for individual transportation arrangements authorized by RCW [28A.160.030](#) whose route stop is outside the walk area for a student's school, except if the student to be transported is disabled under RCW [28A.155.020](#) and is either not ambulatory or not capable of protecting their own welfare while traveling to or from the school or agency where special education services are provided, in which case no mileage distance restriction applies.

The district's transportation program will comply in all ways with state law and regulation. Transportation services of the district may include approved bus routes, district-approved field trips, school activities (participants only) and extracurricular activities (rooters). The Superintendent or designee is authorized to permit a parent of a student enrolled in school to ride a bus when excess seating is available and private or other public transportation is not reasonably available.

The Board may authorize children attending an approved private school to ride a school bus provided that the bus route and stops are not altered, space is available, and a fee to cover the per seat cost for such transportation is collected.

Routes and Schedules

The Superintendent or designee will be responsible for scheduling bus transportation, including the determination of routes and bus stops as well as overseeing the transportation program.

The purpose of bus scheduling and routing is to achieve maximum service with a minimum fleet of buses in so far as this is consistent with rendering safe and reasonably equal service to all students entitled to such service. The Board may authorize the use of a district-owned passenger car in lieu of a bus for transporting students to and from school.

In order to operate the transportation system as safely and efficiently as possible, the following factors will be considered in establishing bus routes:

- A. Where an alternate route may be considered without sacrifice of efficiency or economy, preference will be given to that route more directly serving the largest number of students; and
- B. Location of bus stops may be determined by such factors as student safety, economy and efficiency. Students may be required to walk up to one mile from their home to their bus stop provided that the walking route is safe; and
- C. School schedules will be adjusted to allow maximum utilization of each bus in the system by alternating elementary and secondary trips.

The district will apply for state transportation apportionment funds and will maintain the records required to obtain such funding.

Emergency Routes and Schedules

The district will develop emergency bus routes and schedules to be used when weather conditions make the usual routes impassable or, in the Superintendent's or designee's judgment, too hazardous. At the beginning of the school year, copies of emergency routes and schedules will be distributed to parents with instructions on how to obtain emergency information.

If roads are closed to buses but not to private vehicles, the district may continue to operate the instructional programs of the schools without providing bus transportation until the roads are again open to buses.

Cross Reference: Policy No. 6605 Student Safety – Walking, Biking and Riding Buses

Legal References: RCW 28A.160.020 Authorization for private school students to ride buses – Conditions

RCW 28A.160.030 Authorizing individual transportation or other
arrangements
WAC 392-141 Transportation – State allocation for operations
WAC 392-172A-02095 Transportation (Special Education)
RCW 28A.160 Student Transportation allocations – Definitions
RCW 28A.160.240 Transportation of infants

Classification: Encouraged

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