

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

PURPOSE:

To set forth the requirements for the establishment of the North Kingstown School Department bus routes and stops.

PHILOSOPHY:

The School Committee seeks the establishment, operation and maintenance of the safest, and the most efficient, effective and economical transportation program as can be established in meeting the demands for transporting students to and from designated homes to and from the various school buildings of the district.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The following represents the expectations of the School Committee in regards to the daily transportation of students to and from home and school:

1. Resident pupils attending the public and private/parochial schools of North Kingstown will be transported to their respective schools as listed below.

Kindergarten	-----	5/8 radial mile
Elementary - Grades 1- 5	-----	5/8 radial mile
Middle School - Grades 6 – 8	-----	1 radial mile
Senior High – Grades 9 – 12	-----	1 radial mile

Exception: A pupil, in the event of an occurrence of a handicapping condition, may be permitted to ride on the school bus provided that written request is received from the physician attending the pupil specifying the handicapping condition and indicating the anticipated time period of physical restriction.

2. A pupil riding a school bus will be expected to walk a reasonable distance to a central point of pick-up. Such distance shall not exceed the distance set for pupils walking to school.

Kindergarten	-----	5/8 radial mile
Elementary - Grades 1 - 5	-----	5/8 radial mile
Middle School - Grades 6 - 8	-----	1 radial mile
Senior High – Grades 9 - 12	-----	1 radial mile

3. The Transportation Supervisor shall, in the early part of the school year, determine the central points of loading and unloading of pupils. The bus drivers must maintain these stopping points unless they are changed by the Supervisor. In case of bad weather, the driver may be permitted to use his/her own judgment as to loading and unloading.
4. Pupils riding on school buses are expected to be seated immediately after entering the bus and remain seated until the pupils' destination is reached. Good order must be maintained. Permission to ride on the bus will be removed from any pupil not obeying the rules of order. Permission to ride will not be returned until the parents have been informed and given assurance that the pupil's conduct will be satisfactory.
5. All bus runs shall be planned with student safety as its primary objective. Any major changes in the routing of buses shall be brought in writing to the attention of the affected students/parents at least five (5) school days prior to expected date of implementation of new routing, except under extenuating circumstances when a shorter notice may be used.
6. For further clarification see Policy EEAEC and/or EEAEC – R.
7. If a safety factor is involved, the School Department may waive the walking distance requirement and provide transportation.

The transportation provider shall establish and maintain a record of all school bus routes within their jurisdiction within thirty (30) days of the start of the school year. The projected school bus routes for each ensuing school year shall be sent to the local police chief for review within ninety (90) days of the start of the year.

To assure that all appropriate parties are knowledgeable of the specific plans for implementation of the transportation program, schedule, runs and stops for each school year, the district's designated liaison officer to the transportation service providers shall arrange for the scheduling of a meeting between him/herself and the transportation provider to review the established program. This meeting shall take place no later than the third week in August, building administrators of the North Kingstown School Department and appropriate non-public school representatives serviced by the district,

shall be appropriately informed immediately following this meeting for the purpose of becoming informed and having an opportunity to review-the pending program and major ramifications thereof.

In the event such plans reveal changes which could lead to community unrest or broadly viewed criticism, such changes shall be immediately brought to the attention of the Superintendent of Schools and, in turn, to the School Committee at its regular meeting scheduled for the latest date preceding the opening of school.

Adopted: 7/10/73

Amended: 6/6/91; 2/27/02