

WALKERS AND RIDERS

Bus routes are established under the direction of the superintendent in cooperation with bus contractors so as an authorized bus stop is available within a reasonable walking distance of the home of every student entitled to transportation, and that distance does not exceed one mile.

Bus routes are structured so the total time a student spends on the bus is minimal.

Authorized bus stops are located at convenient intervals in places where students maybe loaded and unloaded, cross highways, and await arrival of buses with the utmost safety allowed by road conditions.

Kindergarten students will be picked up at the bus stop with other students on the regular AM and PM routes.

The district's responsibility begins when the child boards the bus at the pickup location and ends when the child disembarks at the drop off location after school. The bus driver should be considered to have complete authority over students while it is their responsibility to deliver them safely to and from school.

Eligibility:

All children in grades kindergarten through six who reside two or more miles from the school are eligible for free transportation. Exceptions to this policy may be made when road conditions do not provide for the physical safety of the children and when the health of students make this service essential.

PAY-N-RIDE Fee Based:

All grade K through 6 students who live less than 2 Miles and All Grades 7 through 12 students may ride the bus on a PAY-N-RIDE fee basis.

Fees:

The School Committee shall establish fees for transportation for all non-eligible students and will review them on a regular basis. Said fees must be paid to the school department prior to the student riding the bus. The Pay-N-Ride fee is non-refundable. After the 90th day of school, bus fees for new riders shall be one-half the annual fee.

No student eligible for free or reduced lunch under the Federal School Lunch Program, shall be required to pay a fee for transportation.

Special Education:

Regular transportation: If the student does not require transportation as a result of his or her disability, then transportation shall be provided in the same manner as it would be provided for a student without disabilities. In such case, the IEP shall note that the student receives regular transportation, and if the school district provides transportation to similarly situated students without disabilities, the eligible student shall also receive transportation.

Special transportation: If the Team determines that the student's disability requires transportation or specialized transportation arrangements in order to benefit from special education, the Team shall note

WALKERS AND RIDERS

on the student's IEP that the student requires special transportation. In such circumstances, transportation is a related service.

Alternate Addresses:

Transportation may be requested, in writing, to and from a location other than the student's legal residence, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

- The service is to/from said alternate location in the AM and/or PM, each and **every** school day.
- The student is eligible for transportation services.
- The alternate location is on an existing bus route.
- There is space on the bus.

REVISED: April 27, 2021

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 40:5; 71:7A; 71:68; 71B:5
BESE 603 CMR 28.05

CROSS REF.: EEA, Student Transportation Services