

File: EEA RSU#9

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Bus Transportation Between Home and School Within the District

School buses shall be purchased, operated and maintained by RSU #9 for the transportation of eligible resident children located within the District. Smaller vehicles may be substituted for buses for reasons of economy or more efficient operation. These buses shall all be operated within the limits of the laws of the State of Maine.

Eligible riders, as defined by the Board of Directors, are children attending public schools and residing within the boundaries of RSU #9.

Transportation privileges may be allowed on the following criteria:

- A. (Pre-K-5 Elementary students) are entitled to transportation between home and school within the District if they live over one-half (1/2) mile from the school to which they are assigned. However, these same students may be required to walk up to one-half (1/2) mile to a regularly established school bus route or pre-designated bus pick-up before boarding the bus.
- B. Middle School students (6-8) and Secondary students (9-12) are entitled to transportation between home and school within the District if they live over one (1) mile from the school to which they are assigned. However, these same students may be required to walk up to one (1) mile to a regularly established school bus route or pre-designated bus pick-up before boarding the bus.

The above walking limits do not apply within housing parks and developments. RSU #9 will service housing parks and developments at the entrance only, regardless of the mileage walked from within to the entrance. The entrance is the measure point in regards to the walking policy of the District.

It is recognized that in isolated cases it may be necessary for a student to walk beyond the established distances because of road conditions that will not permit a bus to service the student within the established distances.

Exceptions to the above distances shall be made for the following reasons only:

- A. Health- At the request of a medical or osteopathic physician. Exceptions to the established walking distances may be made only in the case of a child with a temporary or permanent physical handicapping condition.
- B. Hazardous Walking Conditions- Hazardous walking conditions shall be defined as those, which would place a child of a given age in a situation of more than normal or average danger. Age shall be

considered in making this determination. In general, hazardous conditions would involve walking on heavily traveled or high speed roads or streets where no sidewalks are available or crossing heavily traveled or high speed streets or roads where no crossing guides or crossing lights are available or other unique circumstances.

Subject to the prior claim of resident pupils to transportation service, a pupil not a legal resident or not residing within the District, but attending a District school, may be transported by District buses over regularly established bus routes by obtaining permission from the Superintendent of Schools. Such permission will be granted only if the student, either by walking or by other modes of transportation, can be located for pick-up within the boundaries of the District. Such permission may also be terminated at will in the event that such permission of bus privileges to non-resident pupils causes overloading of a bus.

Students Who Are Serviced at Child Care Locations

Each bus student will be assigned to an authorized bus stop. The District will establish the stop near the residence of the child or near the child care location, whichever is requested by the parent. The stop will be within the walking distance as defined in this policy and will be limited to authorized stops. Only one (1) stop shall be authorized for each student and that stop shall be considered as permanent until changed by the Director of Support Services.

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- A. A parent shall work with the Director of Support Services when a change in the authorized stop location is necessary. When a child care need exists, the School Department may consider no more than two (2) authorized stops for a child; however, the A.M. stop and the P.M. stop must remain constant.
- B. The District will accept requests to change the assigned authorized stop only under the following conditions:
 - 1 Change in legal residence; and/or,
 - 2 Change in childcare location.

Bus drivers shall pick up only at scheduled stops; they shall not admit students not assigned to that particular bus. Drivers are required not to exceed the legal bus capacity.

Students shall ride only on assigned buses. At the close of school they shall be permitted to disembark at other points or to ride other buses only after presenting the bus driver with a note written by the parent and approved by the building principal.

Notes will only be accepted to meet special needs of students. They will be honored only when bus seating is available. A note must be written by the parent and approved by the principal for each occurrence. Notes written to cover extended periods of time will not be considered.

Supervision of riders on buses will be the prime responsibility of the bus driver. Discipline problems shall be directly reported to the Director of Support Services and the principal of the school the child attends. The principal and the Director of Support Services, on the basis of the bus driver's report and after investigation, will then administer what in their opinion is the measure of disciplinary action necessary. The Director of Support Services may deny bus privileges to a bus student after informing the student's parents, the principal, and the bus driver of his proposed action. Warning notices will be sent to parents by the Director of Support Services to inform them that continued irregular behavior on school buses by their children will result in the termination of their privilege to ride the District buses.

If in the best judgment of the driver and the Director of Support Services, immediate action should be taken to protect the health and safety of the passengers, they shall be authorized to do so.

Shuttle Service

A shuttle system will be established in RSU #9 according to the following:

- A. There will be one (1) trip per day, Monday thru Thursday.
- B. Time for the trip will be established by the Director of Support Services, after consulting with the principals concerning program demand.
- C. All requests from schools will come through the principals. Seasonally, principals will be notified when request are due.
- D. If there are no pupils to be transported from a particular town, the bus will not go to that town even though a request has been made by an administrator.

Legal Reference: TITLE 20A MRSA Sec. 5401 Adopted: Prior to 1988 Revised: January 10, 1995 Reviewed: January 22, 2002 Reviewed: March 31, 2009, Revised July 8, 2014

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