

BUSINESS AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATION

Transportation

Students

Statement of Policy

The Board of Education will provide transportation for students under provisions of state law and regulations. The Superintendent of Schools shall administer the operation so as to:

1. provide for maximum safety of students.
2. supplement and reinforce desirable student behavior patterns.
3. assist handicapped students appropriately.
4. enrich the instructional program through carefully planned field trips as recommended by the staff.

Definitions

1. "School transportation" means the procedure, program, or fully effective and implemented plan by which a pupil is conveyed to and/or from school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense, whether by the use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads approved pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
2. "Walking distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the pupil's residence and his school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil's residence to a point at the entrance of the school, or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school building entrance or the bus pick-up area, or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus or vehicle embarkation point established by the Coventry Board of Education.
3. "One mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280 feet, but not more than 5,380 feet.

4. “Grade K” means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning pupil.
5. “Hazard” means a thing or condition, as prescribed in this policy under “Hazardous Conditions-Guidelines” that affects the safety or pupils walking to and from school.
6. “Sidewalk” means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
7. “Raised walk area” means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage, ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any painted safety markings along the street pavement.
8. “Pupil” means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or nonprofit private school located within the school district or contiguous school district as the case may be.

Provision of Transportation

Transportation by private carrier may be provided whenever such practice is more economical than using school district-owner/leased facilities. Parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible students whenever such practice is more economical or convenient.

Resident public students living outside of the following limits, based on the most direct route from the students’ home beginning at a point at the curb or edge of a public road or highway nearest the home to the edge of the school property or bus pickup areas will be furnished transportation by the Board of Education.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Limit</u>
K – 5	1 mile
6 – 8	1.25 miles
9 – 12	1.5 miles

Students living within the stated limits will receive transportation when, in the opinion of the Board, a hazard is present.

In order to maintain regular bus schedules and continue bus routes, students are expected to be waiting at the bus stop for the bus to arrive at its designated time.

Hazardous Conditions – Transportation Guidelines

1. The maximum walking distances from home to school or to a prescribed point of embarkation are the following: (1) pupils below the age of ten or enrolled grades K through 5, one mile; (2) pupils aged ten to twelve, or enrolled in grades 6 through 8 one and one-quarter miles; and (3) pupils aged twelve and over or enrolled in grades 9 through 12, one and one-half miles. Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of the above distances shall be hazardous.
2. A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exist:
 - a) For pupils under age ten, or enrolled in grades K through 5, absence of pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and at street crossing where there are no stop signs or crossing guards and the traffic count during the time that pupils are walking to or from school exceeds sixty vehicles per hour at the intersection;
 - b) For pupils over age ten, or enrolled in grades 6 through 12, the absence of a traffic light or stop signs or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect and has a traffic count which exceeds ninety vehicles per hour during the time that pupils are walking to or from school;
 - c) For all pupils, any street, road, highway with speed limits in excess of forty miles per hour which do not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where pupils must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop;
 - d) For all pupils, the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open man-holes, construction, snow plowed or piled on the walk area making walkways unusable, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on walkways, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking areas at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, and the like, including such nuisances which are hazardous or attractive to children.
3. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist:
 - a) For pupils under age ten, or enrolled in grade K through 5, any street, road or highway possessing a traffic count of sixty or more vehicles per hour at the time that pupils are walking to or from schools;
 - b) For all pupils, the presence of man-made hazards including attractive nuisances, as stated in number 2(d) above;

- c) For all pupils, any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty-two feet;
 - d) For all pupils, any roadway available to vehicles which when plowed free of snow accumulations, does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty feet; and
 - e) For pupils under age ten, or enrolled in grades K through 5, any street, road, or highway possessing speed limit in excess of thirty miles per hour.
4. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous when the line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Drivers Manual or Department of Transportation, Division of Design.
 5. Any walkway, path, or bridge in an area adjacent or parallel to railroad tracks shall be considered hazardous unless a suitable physical barrier along the entire pedestrian route is present and fixed between pupils and the track; and any crossing of railroad tracks that carry moving trains during hours that pupils are walking to or from school shall be deemed hazardous unless, (1) a crossing guard is present; or (2) an automatic control bar is present at crossings used by pupils under age ten, or, a bar or red flashing signal light is operational when the crossing is used by pupils over ten years of age.
 6. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, waterway, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water for pupils in grades K through 5.
 7. Any area adjacent to a roadway, sidewalk, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes, the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades K through 5.
 8. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route for all school pupils which passes through an area which has a known history of aggressive acts of molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when pupils ordinarily walk to or from school shall be deemed hazardous.
 10. These guidelines are applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
 11. Transportation for Special Education pupils and pupils eligible for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act shall be judged on an individual basis.

12. Exception:
The Board of Education may grant an exception to any provision of this guideline where a peculiar condition or combination or conditions renders such condition(s) a hazard based upon reasonable judgment.

Legal Reference

Connecticut General Statutes

10-186	Duties of local and regional boards of education
10-220	Duties of boards of education
14-275	Equipment and color of school buses
14-275a	Use of standard school bus required, when.
14-275b	Transportation of handicapped students.
14-275c	Regulations re school busses and motor vehicles used to transport special education students.
14-276a(c)	Town/school district may required its school bus operators to have completed a safety training course.

ADOPTED 12/12/02

REVISED _____