BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bloomfield, Connecticut

BOARD POLICY **No. 3541(a)**

RE: Transportation - Students

Adopted: 11/12/2002
Revised: 10/6/2015
Revised:

Statement of Policy

The Board of Education will provide transportation for students under provisions of state law and regulations. In determining the provision of transportation, the superintendent of schools shall consider the guidelines contained in this policy and shall administer the operation so as to:

1. provide for the safety of students.
2. supplement and reinforce desirable student behavior patterns.
3. assist disabled students appropriately.
4. enrich the instructional program through carefully planned field trips as recommended by the staff.
5. This policy shall go into effect for the 2027-2028 school year.

Definitions

1. "**School transportation**" means the procedure, program, or implemented plan by which a pupil is transported to and/or from school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense, whether by 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/her 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 Bloomfield 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" that affects the safety of pupils walking to and from school and/or a designated bus pick-up area.

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Definitions (continued)

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-owned/leased vehicles. If parents volunteer, and the administration permits, parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible students whenever such practice is more economical or convenient for the school district.

In determining the provision of transportation for resident public and eligible private school students, the following guidelines regarding walking distances will be considered. Distance measurements will be based on the most direct route from the student's 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.

Grade	Limit
K-5	1 mile
6-8	1.25 miles
9-12	1.5 miles

Students living within the stated distance limits will receive transportation when, in the opinion of the Board, it is in the best interests of the district to provide transportation.

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BOARD POLICY **No. 3541(c)**

RE: Transportation - Students

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Hazardous Conditions

Priorities in the arrangement of bus routes include: safety, efficiency and the cost factor. Safety factors may vary with pickup and drop off and so be reflected in the bus route regarding service.

The administration shall consider the following guidelines for hazardous conditions when making decisions regarding the transportation of children:

1. 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 3:
        i. the absence of a pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect; OR
        ii. street crossings 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 4 through 12, the absence of a traffic light or stop signs or crossing guard at an intersection where three or more streets intersect which 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:
        i. any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty miles per hour which does 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; OR
        ii. the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open manholes, 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.
2. Any street, road, or highway that has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist:

Hazardous Conditions (continued)

a. For pupils under age ten, or enrolled in grade K through 3:

i. 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 school; OR

ii. any street, road, or highway possessing a speed limit in excess of thirty miles per hour.

b. For all pupils:

i. the presence of man-made hazards including attractive nuisances, as stated in 1(c)(ii) above; OR

ii. any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty-two feet; OR

iii. any roadway available to vehicles that, when plowed free of snow accumulations, does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty feet; OR

iv. any street, road, or highway where 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 Standard, or other reasonable standard.

3. 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 carrying moving trains during hours that pupils are walking to or from school or to and from a designated bus pick-up area shall be deemed hazardous unless:

a. a crossing guard is present; OR

b. for pupil under age ten, an automatic control bar is present at crossings; OR

c. for pupils over age ten, a bar or red flashing signal light is operational.

4. For pupils in grades K through 4, the following conditions shall be deemed hazardous:

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Hazardous Conditions (continued)

a. a lake, pond, stream, culvert, water-way, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water; OR

b. 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, in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier.

5. For pupils in grades K through 8, walking to or from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise or any time one-half hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous.

6. For all students, walking along any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route which passes through an area which has a 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.\

Applicability and Exceptions

1. This policy is applicable to public roads approved and maintained by the municipality or State of Connecticut, or private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-220c.

2. Special Education pupils and pupils eligible for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act shall be judged on an individual basis, and appropriate transportation provided.

3. The Board of Education may grant an exception to any guideline set forth in this policy where a peculiar condition or combination or conditions renders such condition(s) a hazard based upon reasonable judgment; or where under the circumstances, other conditions exist under which the safety of students necessitates a variance with the guidelines within this policy.

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BOARD POLICY **No. 3541(f)**

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Access to Bus Stops/Transportation

Parents and/or guardians are responsible for ensuring the safety of their children up until the, point when students board the school bus or other school provided transportation, and after students get off the bus after school. This responsibility includes the selection of walking routes to/from any bus stop and/or the school building and the provision of supervision that is appropriate to the student's age, maturity and conditions along the walking route and/or at the bus stop at all times.

Given that bus pick up times may vary, the Board expects that parents and/or guardians will ensure that their children arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes in advance of any scheduled pick-up time.

Bus drivers are required to maintain a regular time schedule and pupils are required to be at a designated stop on time. Driver will stop only at designated places.

Students under the age of 10 years, shall be released from school bus transportation only when an authorized adult or parent-designated individual is present at the bus stop. If no authorized individual is present at the time of drop-off, the student shall not be released and shall be returned to the school.

Requests to extend, add or change existing bus routes, or to add or change a bus stop, should be made in writing to the school office or Principal who shall confer with the appropriate personnel, i.e. the district Transportation Coordinator and bus contractor.

Alternate Care Requests

Requests to have a student picked up and/or dropped off at-a home childcare must be made in writing to the Transportation Coordinator. These requests will be honored provided the there is an existing bus route assigned to that location in the district and there is seating space available on the bus. Seating priority will be given to students who residences are located on an existing bus route. (These requests will only be granted for Bloomfield residents for a home or childcare site located in the Town of Bloomfield).

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BOARD POLICY **No. 3541(g)**

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Eligibility for Out-of-Town Transportation

Bloomfield Public Schools will not provide transportation to out-of-town schools except as required by State Statutes.

- Any resident of the school district under twenty-one years of age who is not a high school or vocational school graduate and who is attending a state vocational school shall be eligible for transportation.
- A student who is placed by a Planning and Placement Team for special education reasons in either a public or private educational institution out-of-town shall be provided the necessary transportation.

Transportation Dispute and Appeal

When a decision regarding transportation services is disputed, the Board of Education shall provide an appeal process and conduct any required hearing in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §10-186.

Any parent, guardian, student who is 18 years of age or older, or any official responsible for enforcing school attendance laws may appeal a transportation decision by following these steps:

1. The matter shall first be discussed with the Principal of the school to which the student is assigned.

2. If the matter is not resolved at the school level, it shall be referred to the Transportation Coordinator.

3. If the matter remains unresolved, it shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools or designee for review.

Any parent, guardian, student who is 18 years old or older, or any official responsible for enforcing school attendance laws may request a hearing in writing if they believe the Superintendent or their designee is not providing required school services—such as transportation—in accordance with Connecticut law or Board regulations. The hearing will be held before the Board of Education or an impartial hearing officer to review the concern and determine whether the required services have been properly provided.

The Board shall hold a hearing within ten (10) days following receipt of such request.

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Transportation Dispute and Appeal (continued)

Transportation hearings will be conducted in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-186, and with Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 4-177 to 4-180, inclusive upon written request.

Safety Complaint Procedure

The superintendent of schools shall develop and implement a procedure for the reporting of all complaints relative to school transportation safety and shall cause to be maintained a written record of all such complaints received. (See Policy 3541.5)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-221c Development of policy for reporting complaints regarding school transportation safety

14-275b Transportation of mobility impaired students.

14-275c Regulations re school buses and motor vehicles used to transport special Education students.