

Transportation Permissions across District Boundary Lines

Background:

Iowa public school districts cannot cross the boundaries of another district without permission from the district and approved by the Area Education Agency, under Iowa Code Chapter 285.9(3). This has been interpreted to mean regular routes and regular special education routes, not bussing for field trips or activity trips. The Code requires school districts to request permission from neighboring district(s) before any bus routes cross district boundaries.

Each year Central Rivers AEA asks school boards to reaffirm their decisions regarding school buses crossing their district lines as the AEA Board must approve the actions of local school boards.

Permissible Situations:

With permission of the affected school board, a school district's bus may operate beyond its borders for any or all of the following six purposes:

- A. reduce a road-related safety concern on a route
- B. create a more efficient/direct route
- C. transport special education students with established tuition in/out agreements
- D. transport private school students
- E. transport open-enrolled students
- F. transport homeless students/ foster care students to district of origin

The first three options (A – C) and the sixth option (F) are all safe and prudent methods of transportation operations that do not expose our district to a severe loss of students. The Belmond-Klemme Board has allowed Purposes A, B, C, and F for bus transportation for many years now. Purposes D and E raise concern among our public.

Recommended Action:

I recommend the board reconfirm the following permissions whereby a school district's buses may operate within our district borders:

- A. to reduce a road-related safety concern on a route,
- B. to create a more efficient/direct route,
- C. to transport special education students with established tuition in/out agreements, and
- F. to transport homeless students/ foster care students to district of origin;

For the following adjacent school districts:

- CAL (Latimer) (0916),
- Clarion-Goldfield-Dows (1206),
- Garner-Hayfield-Ventura (2403),
- West Fork (Sheffield) (5922), and
- West Hancock (Britt) (0819).