

Student Transportation Services

Policy #751 Rule (1)

Waunakee Community School District

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1. Drivers may, after consulting with the bus transportation supervisor, refuse to enter roads which may endanger the safety of the riders or cause the District unusual expenses.
2. Buses will not deviate from assigned routes unless permission is granted by the Executive Director of Operations.
3. Students must be let off at assigned locations and no one shall be allowed to ride a bus other than the assigned passengers without the permission of the building principal.
Procedure for obtaining permission:
 - a. A note signed by a parent or guardian must be provided to the building principal no less than 24 hours before the student may ride on the bus.
 - b. The building principal will approve or deny the request.
 - c. The building principal will notify the driver if the request is approved.
 - d. No bus will be allowed to transport more students than what the law allows to be transported by that bus.
 - e. Regularly assigned students take precedence.
4. Students are to be assigned pick-up locations at the time designated by the bus driver, and no driver is to wait more than one minute for students not at assigned locations unless they receive permission from the Executive Director of Operations. This may be done by way of the two-way radios. For safety reasons, ~~only two (2) pick-up/drop-off locations (including home)~~ the district can only allow for one consistent pick-up point in the morning and one drop-off point in the afternoon per student. That schedule must be consistent week to week. Two (2) parent/guardian households are each considered one (1) consistent pick-up/drop-off location. Varying schedules will not be allowed, (i.e. one week Mon., Wed., Friday drop-off/pick-up and following week Mon., Tues., Thurs., etc.) except in emergencies as approved by the Executive Director of Operations.

For safety reasons, pick-up or drop-off locations other than home must be requested in writing by parents/guardians via a district form. This request must be submitted to the bus contractor before the routes are finalized for the school year or summer session. The routes are finalized no later than ~~five business days~~ 2 weeks prior to the start of the school year or summer session. Bus routes and pick-up/drop-off locations will not change during the first two weeks of the school year or summer sessions.

Requests received after the bus routes are finalized will be reviewed for consideration after the first week of the school year or summer session is finished.

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5. Maximum Riding Time - Regular Route

The maximum riding time for any one student shall not exceed two (2) hours each day. There could be an occasion where the riding time of some students may exceed this time depending on the weather. Any other exceptions need to be approved by the Board.

6. Non-Resident Transportation

A. The district shall not provide transportation of nonresident students who are accepted under the open enrollment program with the exception of CWD students as outlined in their IEP. and for students who qualify for and follow the procedures and approvals outlined in paragraph 6B of this policy. Transportation shall be provided by the parent to and from the assigned school. Parents may contract with the district for transportation services from a scheduled district bus stop.

B. A non-resident open enrolled student may request in writing a transportation contract to pay for services to the district administrator or designee and may be granted approval, if:

- The residence is located on an existing Waunakee Community School District bus route.
- Approval is granted by the resident school board for the non-resident district to provide transportation to and/or from the designated residence. (Per Wisconsin State Statute 121.54(10))
- If the residence is located in a location that is approved as a safe pick-up and drop-off location, as determined by the non-resident district bus company.

7. Extra-Curricular Trips

a. Students are to ride to and from a field trip location or a co-curricular event in school district provided vehicles with the exception that they may be transported by their own parent/guardians with a written request provided to the principal. The principal may make alternative arrangements, with parent approval, for unique or unusual circumstances. High school students may drive to activity sites within the Village of Waunakee with the permission of the principal. Students and their parents/guardians will be required to enter into an Agreement with the District in order to transport themselves.

b. Only parents/guardians/volunteers serving as chaperones may ride on school provided vehicles in addition to staff members and the students involved with the trip.

c. Parent chaperones may not bring other children on school-sponsored trips. Chaperones are expected to assist with supervision of the students on the trip and caring for other children can interfere with that responsibility.

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- d. Parent chaperones may drive their own vehicles on school trips if sufficient supervision is provided on school vehicles. However, they may only transport other parent chaperones or their own child involved in the group activity.
- e. Only students, staff, and designated chaperones are part of the official field trip/co-curricular group. Others attending the same event on their own initiative are not part of the official group.

The District's Executive Director of Operations may make exceptions to the above guidelines after consultation with the bus contractor and the district's insurance carrier. A possible exception would be to transport students from another district along with Waunakee students to a regional or national conference. Others might include allowing a child of a driver, a sibling of a student, or parents of team members to ride school buses in unique or unusual circumstances.

Chaperones of all extracurricular trips are responsible to help the driver with discipline of students on the bus and be concerned with the general safety of students.

8. Shuttle Service

The district shall provide a shuttle service between elementary schools. Only students who are approved for shuttle service and appearing on the shuttle roster shall ride the shuttle bus. This service shall be provided for the following students: students with disabilities, intra-district transfer students, and students whose approved child care provider is in another attendance area or other students as approved by the Executive Director of Operations.

- a. Shuttle service is not to be used as a "taxi" service for transporting non-shuttle students to after school meetings or to a friend's house.
- b. Should a student not be eligible for transportation in his/her attendance area the approved shuttle service will transport that student to the "home" attendance area school and the student shall walk to his/her home.
- c. Should a student be eligible for transportation in his/her attendance area the student will be transferred from his/her shuttle bus to his/her regular bus for transportation home.

9. ~~Child Care~~ Transportation Fees

If a student is not eligible for transportation in his/her transportation area a fee shall be charged, as approved by the Board, for transporting that student to or from his/her child ~~care provider~~ on regular bus routes. However, no fee would be charged for the shuttle service should its use be necessary.

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