

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The transportation policies of the Board are aimed at providing a safe, efficient and economical method of getting students to and from school. It is the desire of the Board that the transportation schedule serves the best interests of all students and the District. The Board provides transportation as required by State law.

In addition to that required by law, the Board may provide transportation to all elementary and secondary school students to the extent determined by the administration **in accordance with all statutory obligations** and approved by the Board. All regulations governing student transportation are in accordance with the Ohio School Bus Operation Regulations issued by the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Department of Public Safety and as required by State law.

The District will transport as many students as practical on school buses that meet all the state requirements for pupil transportation. In some cases, students may be transported by other means as defined by State law.

Fees may not be charged to students for routine transportation or for non-routine transportation for educational field trips provided during the school day.

The Board annually approves designated bus stops and time schedules as presented by the Superintendent/designee, and grants authority to the transportation supervisor/designee to adjust stops during the school year.

The transportation program is under the direction of the transportation supervisor who is responsible to the Superintendent. The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop District-level policies and procedures for the safe and efficient operation of student transportation services.

Transportation to Community, STEM, STEAM and Private Schools

The District will provide transportation for eligible students who attend community, STEM, STEAM, and private schools in compliance with State law when practical.

When transportation for any student is not practical by any means approved by State law, the Board may resolve to declare transportation impractical and offer the student payment in lieu of transportation.

[Adoption date:]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3327.01 through 3327.10; **3327.015**
4511.76 through 4511.78
OAC 3301-83

CROSS REFS.: EEAA, Eligibility Zones for Pupil Transportation
EEAC, School Bus Safety Program

NOTE: In all city, local and exempted village districts, the board provides transportation for resident elementary students, kindergarten through grade eight, who live more than two miles from the school of attendance and for all students with physical or mental disabilities that make walking impossible or unsafe. The transporting of high school students is optional. Students attending a joint vocational school must be provided with transportation from the high school to the JVSD. Buses used to transport students may be operated by the district, other districts or in some cases private contractors that meet the requirements for the state for pupil transportation. The approved alternative methods for transporting students are outlined in Ohio Administrative Code 3301-83-19.

House Bill 166 enacted new Ohio Revised Code 3327.015, which states that if a district provides transportation beyond the requirements of State law, it cannot reduce that level of transportation after the first day of the school year. Districts should make certain that all transportation policies are accurate and reflect local practice.

The board must provide transportation to nonpublic, community, STEM and STEAM school students on the same basis as it is provided to resident students attending district schools.

The board is not required to transport nonpublic or community school students whose travel is more than 30 minutes to school from their district school of assignment. These students are not eligible for any services, including payment in lieu of transportation in accordance with State law.

State law permits districts, upon request, to transport students in grades K-12 who do not reside in the district to a nonpublic school the student attends if the:

- 1. student's resident district is not required to transport the student because the travel time is more than 30 minutes and*
- 2. parent agrees to reimburse the nonresident district for the costs of transporting the student that exceed the amount the district receives from the state.*

If the nonresident district declines the request, it is required to state its reasons in writing.

It is advisable for a board to delegate to the superintendent/designee the responsibility of developing district-level policies and procedures for the daily transportation procedure. Many laws will apply in these areas.