

ELLSWORTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Ellsworth School Board will provide transportation for all students living beyond a reasonable distance from their school or from a scheduled bus stop as the Board has determined. This distance is defined as one mile.

Distance shall be measured by the shortest public road from the residence to the bus stop or school door. In cases questioned, distance will be measured and established by the Superintendent.

Exceptions to the above distance shall be made for the following reasons only:

- A. Health: Exceptions to established walking distances may be made for students with disabilities as required by their IEP or Individual Health Plan (504 Plan). Exceptions may also be made to accommodate a student's need for transportation with written documentation from the student's physician.
- B. Kindergarten Students: Kindergarten bus service will include pick-up and delivery to the home, providing a suitable bus turn is available.
- C. Hazardous Walking Conditions: Hazardous walking conditions shall be defined as those which would place a child of a given age in a situation of greater than normal or average danger.

Authorized bus stops will be located so as to load and unload students with the most safety allowed by road conditions. The distance between stops may vary according to safety factors. If possible, students will be loaded and unloaded so that it is not necessary for them to cross a main highway to reach their homes.

Requests for bus stops, inconsistent with this policy must be made in writing and submitted to the Superintendent.

School busses and vehicles carrying students will be considered extensions of the school experience. All students using school transportation will abide by the code of conduct provided in each school handbook. Violations of such code, as well as other conduct which is improper or which jeopardizes the safety of self or others, will be reported by the driver. Video cameras may be used on busses to support the driver's reports of unacceptable conduct. Violators may be denied use of transportation for a period of time as deemed proper by the building principal and/or transportation supervisor.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 5401

Cross Reference: JICC - Student Conduct on School Buses

Adopted: May 13, 2014