

School Bus Scheduling and Routing

The following guidelines will be used when establishing bus stops on each route and the distance students may be required to walk:

All students living on a state or town accepted and maintained road are eligible for school transportation services to and from a scheduled bus stop.

Students living on roads that are not accepted, nor maintained by the State of Maine or one of the District member towns, such as long driveways, private trailer parks, and housing developments will be picked up at a designated spot on the closest accepted and maintained road, the condition of the road and suitable bus turn-around permitting.

The transportation supervisor will be responsible for scheduling annually, and for revising when necessary, all bus routes and stops. The supervisor will also be responsible for rules and regulations and all other matters relative to the transportation system. The number of stops on each trip will be limited to enable buses to make trips in a reasonable time.

Scheduled bus stops will be designated with concern for the safety of students, state regulations, weather conditions, road and traffic conditions, and the number and age of students being transported for each run.

Elementary students (K-6) may be required to walk up to one half mile. Junior high school students (grades 7 and 8) and high school students (grades 9 through 12) may be required to walk up to one mile. In isolated cases it may be necessary for a student to walk beyond the established distances because of road conditions or safety concerns that will not permit a bus to service the student within the established walking distances. In cases where service is provided on dead end roads, the transportation supervisor shall suspend service if turn around space is not provided.

Unusual Situations

The school administration, with the approval of the Board, may make exceptions where this is in the best interests of the child and the District. Requests for exceptions to the Board's Transportation Policy may be made through the transportation supervisor to the Superintendent, who may consider such requests for submission to the Board.

In special cases, a parent may request, in writing, to have his/her child ride a different bus from normal, or get on or off the bus at a bus stop different from normal, provided there is room on that bus. The permission slip must be presented to the driver and bear the signature of the principal or designee in charge of a particular building. The request must include the specific dates for which the exception is requested. No distinction shall be made between students eligible to ride and those not eligible to ride.

In the case of severe weather conditions, individual drivers will assume responsibility for exceptions to the policy if, in their judgment, the conditions create a hazard for students. Such exceptions are subject to review by the transportation supervisor and will be limited to the day or days on which the severe conditions occur.

Legal Reference: Title 20-A, M.R.S.A. § 5401

Approved: May 1, 2014