



Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Transportation (1)
Code	810
Status	Review
Adopted	May 25, 2010

Purpose

Transportation for students shall be provided in accordance with law, Board Policy and the Transportation Handbook.

Authority

The Board shall purchase, equip, and maintain vehicles or contract for school bus services for transportation of students to and from school at regularly scheduled hours and for field trips and extracurricular activities. [\[1\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[10\]](#)

The Board has authorized transportation to and from school for: [\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

1. Students in grades Kindergarten (K) through 5 who reside over one mile (1.0) and for students in grades 6-12 who reside over one and one-half (1.5) miles by the nearest public highway from the school in which the students are assigned within their attendance areas. Students with disabilities are subject to the same rules as regular education students except as may be required otherwise in accordance with applicable law.
2. Students who reside within the district and who are enrolled in a vocational technical school. [\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)
3. Students who reside within the district and who are enrolled in a nonpublic school which is not operated for profit and which is located within the district boundaries or outside the district boundaries at a distance not exceeding ten (10) miles by the nearest highway. The distance parameters outlined in paragraph 1 above also apply.
4. Students who reside within the one (1) and one and one-half (1 ½) mile limits, as specified under paragraph 1 above, but whose walking routes constitute a hazard to the students when so certified by the Bureau of Traffic Safety in the State Department of Transportation.

Delegation of Responsibility

The school bus driver shall be responsible for the discipline of students while they are being transported.

In the event that a principal or building administrator suspends a student from bus transportation for disciplinary reasons, the parents/guardians shall be responsible for the student's transportation. [\[10\]](#)

The Director of Transportation shall be responsible to:

1. Prepare a district map or schedule indicating each bus stop and bus route. [\[10\]](#)

2. Maintain records and make required reports regarding school transportation.

[\[11\]](#)[\[10\]](#)

3. Distribute rules governing student conduct during transport; such rules shall be binding on all students transported by the district.

Safety/Economy/Student Conduct

The Board annually shall review and approve bus routes for the ensuing school year as recommended by the Director of Transportation. Bus stops will be established with due regard for safety and efficiency. Subsequent to Board action, changes shall only be made upon approval of the Director of Transportation or his/her designee.

In recognition of the danger inherent in the rearward movement of buses, bus routes will be designed, when at all possible, to preclude the necessity of having to back up a bus in order to turn around. If necessary, students may be required to walk to a bus stop as far away as those distances permitted by law. If a bus must enter an area where exit can only be gained by backing, the turnaround area will be carefully selected by the Director of Transportation.

In recognition of the fact that each school bus stop on the area's busy highways presents a hazard for the students as well as for the motoring public, the number of stops made to load and unload shall be kept to a minimum.

In recognition of the cost of fuel required to operate buses, every effort will be made to reduce fuel consumption, thereby reducing cost. Consideration will be given to:

1. Increasing the walking distance to bus stops thereby lengthening distance between pick-up points and reducing the number of stops required by the bus.
2. Loading buses as close to maximum capacity as possible in order to reduce the number of buses required.
3. Routing buses to stay on main roads as much as possible. Reducing the number of side spurs to main routes extends the range of buses and also contributes to safety by eliminating some turnaround and pick-up stops.
4. Continual day-to-day route evaluation and revision where necessary to reduce mileage and stops.

The Board believes that requests for changes to approved bus stops shall ordinarily be denied in the interest of route efficiency and the equitable application of bus stop assignments. The Superintendent may grant an exception in cases of rare and extreme hardships, contingent upon the recommendation of the Director of Transportation. In such circumstances, the decision of the Superintendent should be considered final.

The school bus driver shall not allow any firearms, explosives or anything of a dangerous or objectionable nature on the bus. Live animals will be permitted on the bus only with the consent of the Director of Transportation or his/her designee.

The Board believes that unruly conduct and vandalism should be given prompt and serious attention by the building principal as soon as administratively feasible.

The Board recognizes that serious misconduct on board a school bus jeopardizes the safety of all passengers and directs the Superintendent, to the extent permitted by law, to develop a program to curtail and control vandalism and unruly conduct. The Board believes that the use of video monitoring will help to serve as a deterrent to misbehavior on school buses, although video monitoring does not assure the elimination of misconduct.

The conduct of students to and from school is an important part of the total school program. Maintaining good order on school buses requires the cooperation of students, parents/guardians, teachers, principals and bus drivers. The Board expects students to conduct themselves in a responsible and safe manner while riding on district-owned vehicles and/or using contracted transportation services. The following forms of activity on buses will not be tolerated[MIL1] :

1. Fighting.
2. Smoking.
3. Eating/drinking.

4. Damaging property.
5. Standing, walking while bus is in motion.
6. Throwing items out of windows.
7. Parts of the body hanging out of windows.
8. Playing of radios, CD players, tape players, or other digital music players such that others can hear or discern the sounds associated with the electronic device.
9. Excessive noise.
10. Profane language.
11. Tampering with emergency door/safety equipment.
12. Refusing to obey driver.
13. Misconduct at a bus stop which violates the property rights of people who reside at or near the stop, or conduct which is hazardous to other students waiting for the bus. Students are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner that they will be free from any adverse criticism.
14. Riding a bus other than the one to which assigned, without prior approval. Bus assignments are made on the basis of available seats. Riding a bus to which one is not assigned may result in an overload of capacity.
15. Any unfavorable conduct not specifically covered in the preceding regulations but which is determined by the bus driver, building administrator, or Director of Transportation to be detrimental to the safe operation of the bus. Violations of school bus conduct rules may result in suspension or termination of transportation privileges[MIL2] .

Operations

Nonpublic schools may request early dismissal transportation services for the same number of days as are designated early dismissal in the annually approved Penn-Delco School District calendar. This service will be provided if the dismissal will not disrupt any regularly scheduled transportation. Nonpublic schools will notify the Penn-Delco School District Transportation Department prior to August 15th of each year, of the early dismissal days for which they are requesting transportation.

In keeping with regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Public Utilities Commission, the district-owned vehicles will not be used commercially or for other than district-authorized services and activities.

Video Cameras

In an effort to help the driver to better manage the students/passengers, video cameras are installed in all buses.

The camera may help to support drivers with addressing discipline problems as they arise and may assist in making parents/guardians aware of any critical situations with the child's behavior[MIL3] . The Board affirms that Audio is not to be recorded.

Anti-Idling Requirement. The Board prohibits any diesel-powered motor vehicle weighing 10,001 pounds or more to idle for more than five (5) minutes in any continuous sixty-minute period while parked, loaded, or unloading, except as allowed by law. [15]

The Board shall ensure that permanent signs, notifying drivers of the idling restrictions, are maintained on district property at locations where[MIL4] passengers load and unload onto or from busses. [16]

Athletic Activities

All school district sponsored athletic activities must have a coach supervise that activity.

Athletic events requiring the use of district school buses must have a coach on each bus to supervise the team to the destination, at the athletic event, and during the return trip to the district.

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 1361](#)

[5. 24 P.S. 1362](#)

[6. 67 PA Code 447.1 et seq](#)

[7. 24 P.S. 1374](#)

[8. 22 PA Code 23.3](#)

9. Pol. 103

[10. 22 PA Code 23.4](#)

[11. 22 PA Code 23.1](#)

[14. 22 PA Code 23.2](#)

[15. 35 P.S. 4601 et seq](#)

[16. 67 PA Code 212.101](#)

[24 P.S. 111](#)

[49 CFR Part 37](#)

[49 CFR Part 38](#)

[24 P.S. 1331](#)

[24 P.S. 1365](#)

[24 P.S. 1366](#)

[24 P.S. 2541](#)

[24 P.S. 2542](#)

[22 PA Code 8.1 et seq](#)

[22 PA Code 15.1 et seq](#)

[22 PA Code 23.6](#)

[23 Pa. C.S.A. 6301 et seq](#)

Pol. 000

Pol. 121

Pol. 304

Pol. 317