

Book Ready for Board

Section 8000 Operations

Title Copy of TRANSPORTATION

Number po8600

Status

Legal West Virginia State Board of Education policy 4373
West Virginia State Board of Education policy 4336
WV Code 18-5-13, 18-5-16, 18A-5-1
42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

Adopted January 22, 2015

8600 - TRANSPORTATION

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide transportation for students as required by State Code and West Virginia Board policy. The State Code authorizes the Board to provide, at public expense, adequate means of transportation: for all children of school age who live more than two (2) miles distance from the nearest available road; for children participating in Board-approved curricular and extracurricular activities; across county lines for students transferred from one school district to another by mutual agreement of both county Board, as reflected in the minutes of each participating board; and within available revenues, for students within two (2) miles distance of the school. In the event topography, impassable roads, long bus rides or other conditions prevent the practicable transportation of any student to an in-county high school, the Board may transfer the student to a high school in an adjoining county or accept similarly situated students from an adjoining county. In such case, the Board may enter into an agreement providing for the payment of the cost for transportation, if any, for these students.

Guidelines for School Bus Routing

The recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for students to and from school under normal weather and operating conditions are as follows for:

- A. elementary school students, thirty (30) minutes;
- B. middle school, immediate school and junior high school students; forty-five (45) minutes; and
- C. high school students, sixty (60) minutes.

The Board may not create a new bus route for the transportation of students in any of the grade levels pre-kindergarten through grade five to and from any school included in a school closure, consolidation or new construction project approved after July 1, 2008 which exceeds by more than fifteen (15) minutes the above recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for elementary students unless:

- A. the Board adopts a separate motion to approve creation of the route and request written permission of the WVBE to create the route;
- B. receives the written permission of the WVBE to create the route.

~~The Board may not create, nor may the WVBE permit, the creation of a new bus route for the transportation of students in any of the grade levels pre-kindergarten through grade five to and from any school included in a school closure, consolidation or new construction project approved after the first day of July 1, 2008 which exceeds by more than thirty (30) minutes the recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for elementary students adopted by the WVBE. Transportation of eligible vocational or special education children between their home areas and schools outside the District may be arranged through the use of Board-owned vehicles, through cooperation with other districts, through commercial carriers, and/or by other means in the most efficient and economical manner.~~

School buses shall be purchased and maintained by the Board for the transportation of resident students between their home areas and the schools of the County to which they are assigned or, on a space-available basis, to their nonpublic schools. The Superintendent may substitute smaller buses for reasons of economy or efficiency of operation.

In the event students eligible for special education or Section 504 services require special transportation arrangements, the terms of such arrangements as contained in a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan shall prevail to the extent such transportation arrangements conflict with this policy.

Transportation of eligible vocational or special education children between their home areas and schools outside the County may be arranged through the use of Board-owned vehicles, through cooperation with other counties, through commercial carriers, and/or by other means in the most efficient and economical manner.

The Superintendent shall approve the bus routes annually. The Superintendent is authorized to make any necessary changes in the approved route.

School Bus Stop Locations

- A. Ideally, bus stops should be located out of the traffic stream at least ~~.20 miles apart.~~
- B. For bus stop locations near a railroad crossing, consideration should be given to the traffic flow in the area and to assure that adequate distance is allowed for traffic to clear the railroad tracks. The safety of the general motorists should be taken in consideration.
- C. With irregular terrain, the highest priority in establishing a bus location should be the safety of the students. Every effort should be made by county school officials to select a safe bus stop with ample waiting areas for students.
- D. The minimum sight distance should be related to the approved speed of traffic. The approved speed is the posted speed limit, advisory speed limit or a value judged to most accurately represent the prevailing speed at a specific location.
- E. Sight distance needed on a level grade for essential speeds is as follows: (EXCEPTION: When a bus stop is near the crest of a hill or a curve, the view of approaching traffic is obstructed, or traffic speed is thirty-five (35) mph or less, the sight distance shall be a minimum of 200 feet.)

	Recommended Minimum	
Speed (mph)	Sight Distance	Sight Distance
25	300 feet	139 feet
30	360 feet	176 feet
35	420 feet	219 feet
40	480 feet	263 feet
45	540 feet	314 feet
50	600 feet	369 feet
55	660 feet	432 feet

- F. The West Virginia Division of Transportation (hereinafter, "DOT") and District Traffic Engineers will provide assistance in the selection and the use of school bus STOP signs which warn motorists of the presence of students as a bus stop. The county shall request the DOT for assistance if needed.
- G. Bus stops should be located to minimize students walking along unsafe highways.
- H. A school bus operator shall contact the transportation director when a bus stop is determined to be potentially unsafe. The transportation director shall evaluate and take action to relocate the stop to a safer place, in necessary. The District Director/Supervisor may request the Executive Director of School Transportation/designee to assist in evaluation of bus stop locations, but the final decision shall remain the responsibility of the District.
- I. School bus operators are to pick up and discharge students only at the designated locations.
- J. ~~When possible, a bus stop shall be 200 feet from the crest of a hill or a curve, if the view of approaching traffic is obstructed.~~ Wherever possible, stops should be located to minimize the need for students to cross the highway.

Transporting Homeless Students

Students meeting the Federal definition of "homeless" will be transported from their temporary place of residence to their school of assignment, at the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied minor, to the same extent as all other

students of the District and consistent with this policy and Policy 5111.01 - Homeless Students. If the homeless child or youth continues his/her education in the school of origin but begins living in an area served by another district, the district of origin and the county in which the homeless child is living shall agree upon the method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the districts cannot agree upon a method, the responsibility and costs for transportation are to be shared equally. In no event will a homeless student be denied enrollment based on issues related to student transportation.

Video Recording Device

The Board authorizes the installation and use of video recording devices in the school buses to assist the drivers in providing for the safety and well-being of the students while on a bus and the "Student Code of Conduct" shall be applicable to all students while being transported by bus. In the event video recording devices have audio recording capabilities, the bus shall contain an appropriate posted notice of such capabilities.

~~Students meeting the Federal definition of "homeless" will be transported from their temporary place of residence to their school of assignment, at the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied minor, to the same extent as all other students of the County and consistent with this Policy. If the homeless child or youth continues his/her education in the school of origin but begins living in an area served by another county, the county of origin and the county in which the homeless child is living shall agree upon the method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the counties cannot agree upon a method, the responsibility and costs for transportation are to be shared equally. In no event will a homeless student be denied enrollment based on issues related to student transportation.~~

Suspension, Revocation or Non-renewal of Certification of School Bus Operators

Should any bus operator be disqualified from performing the duties of bus operator through the revocation or suspension of bus operator certification or through the revocation or suspension of commercial driver's license, as a result of criminal conviction or for any other reason, the bus operator shall be deemed incompetent and shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and implementing appropriate administrative guidelines for this policy.

© Neola 2008

Last Modified by Blaine Hess on September 6, 2018