

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION POLICY SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY

The purpose of this policy is to delineate the available services and the eligibility requirements. This policy applies to the transportation of public school children, grades K-12, to and from schools located within the Town of Franklin, MA. This policy does not apply to special education transportation. Bus transportation is provided under contract with private owners and is voted by the School Committee. The contracts are authorized by the Superintendent of Schools. Pupils are designated as walkers if they do not qualify as bus pupils.

ELIGIBILITY AND MEASUREMENTS

For purposes of this transportation policy, all distances and walking routes shall be measured and determined in accordance with the geographic software system then in use by the Franklin School System.

All students in grades K to 6 who reside more than 2.0 miles from their assigned school will be bused at no charge to the student.

Students in grades 7 through 12 are not eligible for free bus transportation.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for execution of the transportation policy and regulations adopted to implement the policy.

The Franklin School Committee reserves the right to authorize a pay to ride option. The Committee will determine whether or not to offer this option on a yearly basis.

PHILOSOPHY OF ROUTING AND SCHEDULING:

General -In planning a pupil transportation system, bus company officials will consider each detail involved, for example, operating buses, scheduling trips, adopting rules and regulations for loading and unloading pupils, handling special requests for transportation, providing effective intercommunication in the district, and determining policies for pupil control on the buses.

Scheduling and routing will be planned so all students authorized to be transported are accommodated safely, efficiently, and on time.

Maximum Loads for Buses -Buses will be assigned to routes to make maximum utilization of bus capacity. The maximum load on buses may not exceed the posted seating capacity of the bus.

Bus Stops -The bus company will be responsible for locating bus stops at points where pupils can be loaded and discharged safely and conveniently. Where pupils live close together they may be required to walk to certain designated bus stops located at intervals along the route. Students in grades K through 6

who live outside of the walk zones are required to walk to the nearest bus stop. For children living on side roads, the maximum walking distance to bus stops will be one-half mile or less. The bus company will provide a list of bus routes, stops, and names of children eligible to be bused from each stop by the first week of August. The Assistant Superintendent will be informed of changes in bus stops.

Travel between Home and Bus Stop -School staff and bus officials will instruct pupils about bus safety at least three times per year

Loading and Unloading -Buses will not unload before the school building is open and adequate staff members are on duty. The unloading times will be provided to the contractor by the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services.

Clarification

It is the intent of the Franklin School Committee to comply with the letter and spirit of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and regulations of the Registry of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Education pertinent to transportation of pupils, and these govern any areas not covered by specific declaration of policy.

LEG REF: M.G.L. 71:68

REF: Transportation Contract
Student Handbooks
Bus Driver Handbook