

8600 Administrative Guidelines

Transportation

School bus stops shall be established on the residence side of all four-lane highways and on the residence side of other roadways posing potential hazards to students as determined by school officials.

School bus stops shall be located at a distance from the crest of a hill or curve to allow motorists traveling at the posted speed to stop within the sight distance. If the line of sight is less than 500 feet in either direction, a school bus stop sign (Federal Regulation 53-1) shall be installed at least 500 feet in advance of the school bus stop.

Each student shall be assigned and required to use a specific school bus stop except in unusual circumstances as approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Students will be given instruction on school bus safety and behavior within the first three weeks of the school year.

K-8 students may walk up to two miles to their school.

- State minimum standards state that K-8 students living two miles or less may be required to walk to school.
- State minimum standards state that there is no requirement to transport students in grades 9 through 12.

Students may be required to walk up to one-half mile to a bus stop. In all cases, safety will be considered in addition to transporting students in a timely manner to and from school, as well as using our bus fleet to maximum efficiency whenever possible.

In some cases, closer pick-up may be needed due to a hazardous situation that could pose a clear and present danger to student safety. (State rules and regulations state that students may be required to walk up to one-half mile to a bus stop.)

School officials will establish the geographic areas for morning and afternoon kindergarten students to help ensure the safest, most timely method of transporting students to and from school. Students who wish to deviate for the morning and afternoon geographic areas so established may be required to provide transportation for themselves at noontime.

In most cases, morning kindergarten children will have the same bus stop as elementary students.

In most cases, afternoon kindergarten children shall have the same bus stop as elementary students.

If necessary, additional stops may be established for noontime kindergarten students.

On field trips, all students will be picked up and delivered only to the school of assigned trip.

Transportation to child care and babysitters will be provided only if it is feasible to do so as determined by school officials. The before and after school child arrangements must be the same for five (5) days per week, but may be different morning/afternoon. When long-term child care arrangements need to be changed, the request must be in writing, on forms provided, within a minimum of one week's notice, and with the approval of the Building Principal and the Transportation Supervisor. Daily bus passes will be given for emergency purposes only and with the permission of the Building Principal. Safety, time and distance will be considerations in the determination. (State rules and regulations require school districts to transport students living

more than 2 miles (K through 8) and do not require transportation of 9 through 12 students. Eligibility for transportation is based on distance to and from school from the home address.)

For those students experiencing a disciplinary action on a bus, a copy of the bus citation form shall be given immediately to the Building Principal.

Bus Stop Consolidation

The administration will determine cluster stop locations for grades 9-12.

Due to the following concerns, bus stop consolidation guidelines are necessary:

- Length of bus ride for students;
- Late arrival of buses at some schools;
- Number of times buses are stopping on runs;
- Number of times buses are backing up; and
- Cost of purchasing buses and paying drivers to handle increased stops.

The following are recommended guidelines:

- Students in grades K through 8 may be required to walk up to approximately .5 of a mile to a bus stop.
- Students in grades 9 through 12 may be required to walk up to approximately .5 of a mile to a cluster bus stop.
- Bus stops in developments and neighborhoods will be consolidated, and once established, will remain the same from year to year.
 - Stop consolidation on major thoroughfares will occur in areas where sidewalks exist.
 - The following streets are examples of major thoroughfares: Brecksville Road, Broadview Road, Sprague Road, Wallings Road, Route 82, etc.
 - Brecksville Road, Wallings Road and Route 82 are also thoroughfares in which students are not permitted to cross to a bus stop.
 - Some students may be required to walk short distances where repeated stopping of the school bus within a short distance may result in an unsafe situation.
- Specific situations will be considered with regard to student safety, and may alter the adherence to the above guidelines, for example:
 - Topography (i.e., hills, road curves).
 - Bus drivers' line of sight.
 - Maneuverability of buses.
- As in the past, Students in neighborhoods and developments may be required to walk on streets with no sidewalks to reach a bus stop.

The above guidelines address the stated concerns in the following ways:

- Safety:
 - Buses will be required to back up fewer times.
 - More students will be picked up/dropped off at designated stops, resulting in "safety in numbers" at the stops.
- Efficiency:
 - Length of time of many bus rides for students will be shortened.
 - Buses will be able to arrive and depart in a more timely manner.
 - Buses will make fewer stops.
- Reduced costs:
 - Fewer stops will result in not having to purchase additional buses to handle the additional runs required by unnecessary stops.
 - Reduced mileage costs.

Walkers and Riders

The Administration will designate areas of residence from which students will be provided with transportation to schools.

Exceptions to the established walk/ride areas may be made by the Board when:

- in the judgment of the Board, walking conditions to the student's school are extremely hazardous and/or
- because of overcrowding and the necessity to assign students to another building, the Board deems transportation necessary.

The Board authorizes the District staff responsible for administering the student transportation program to require student identification as a prerequisite to riding a school bus when this is deemed necessary.