

Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation

It is the policy of the Brookfield Board of Education to provide safe and reliable bus transportation for eligible students. Such transportation shall be to and from a student's residence, the bus stop or an acceptable day care location which includes a licensed day care center *or of* the home of a family relative or acquaintance designated for that purpose. Bus transportation may be extended to include transportation from school to clubs, organizations, religious classes or public and private recreational activities at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. In making a determination whether or not to extend such transportation consideration shall be given to whether the transportation would result in material cost, and whether it would negatively impact the regular bus schedule and/or safety.

I. Eligibility

To be eligible for bus transportation students shall meet the following criteria:

1. under age 21;
2. not yet graduated from high school or vocational school;
3. attending Brookfield Public Schools, local parochial or private schools or state operated or state approved vocational schools;
4. residing within the limits of the Town of Brookfield or in a community that has contracted with the Brookfield Public Schools to educate their children; and
5. attending special education or is a vocational/agricultural student at an approved program at an out-of-town school.

II. Walking Distances

Students shall be required to walk no more than the following distances along public roadways or authorized pedestrian routes to a designated school or bus stop:

1/2 mile	Center, Huckleberry & Whisconier
1-1/2 miles	Brookfield High School

III. Cul-de-Sac / Dead Ends

Except in cases where hazardous conditions exist as defined in this Policy, buses will not enter any Cul-de-Sac or Dead End Road which distance is the same or less than that proscribed for the age group of children being transported.

Non-Instructional OperationsTransportation (cont'd)IV. Walking / Riding Time

The time needed for transportation and prescribed walking routes shall not exceed one hour each way.

V. Route Establishment

Routes will be established by the superintendent and the transportation contractor and approved by the superintendent according to need and safety with the following considerations:

1. No elementary student (K-8) will cross a state highway or heavily traveled street.
2. Whenever possible, no more than 15 students will be assigned to any bus stop for grades 5-12 and 10 students for grades K-4.
3. Hazardous walking conditions are considered in the determination of bus stops.

VI. Hazardous Conditions

1. A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exist:
 - a. For pupils enrolled in grade K through 4, absence of pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and at street crossings where there are no stop signs or crossing guards and the traffic exceeds 60 vehicles per hour at the intersection.
 - b. For pupils enrolled in grades 5 through 12, the absence of a traffic light or stop sign or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect and has a traffic count which exceeds 90 vehicles per hour during the time that pupils are walking to or from school.
 - c. For all pupils, any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of 40 miles per hour which does not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where pupils must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop.
 - d. For all pupils, the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance, such as open man-holes, construction, snow plowed or piles on the walk area making walkways unusable, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to part on walkways, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking areas at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, and the like, including such nuisance which is hazardous or attractive to children.

Non-Instructional OperationsTransportation (cont'd)

2. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous when the line-of-site visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the "Connecticut Drivers' Manual" or Department of Transportation, Division of Design.
3. Any street, road or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous for pupils enrolled in grades K through 4 or if any one of the following conditions exist. For pupils enrolled in grades 5 through 12, such road, street, or highway shall be deemed hazardous when two or more of the following conditions exist:
 - a. There exists a line-of-site obstruction caused by a hill, curve, structure, out-cropping, land form, planting, snowbank, or other obscuring object or structure which may be safely negotiated by vehicles only at speeds under 15 miles per hour.
 - b. The traffic count is greater than 60 vehicles per hour during the time that pupils are walking to or from school.
 - c. Man-made hazards including attractive nuisances are present.
 - d. The roadway available to vehicles does not have a minimum width of 22 feet.
 - e. The roadway available to vehicles, when plowed free of snow accumulations, does not have a minimum width of 16 feet.
 - f. The posted speed limit is in excess of 50 miles per hour.
4. For pupils in grades K through 4, a lake, pond, stream, culvert, waterway, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water.
5. Any area adjacent to a roadway, walkway, sidewalk, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes without a fence or other suitable barrier shall be deemed a hazard.
6. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route for all school pupils which passes through an area which has a history of aggressive acts or molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when pupils ordinarily walk to or from school shall be deemed hazardous.
7. A situation shall be considered hazardous wherein a Board of Education requires a pupil enrolled in a grade K through 8 to walk to or from school at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise or anytime one-half hour after sunset.

Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation (cont'd)

VII. Notification of Hazardous Conditions

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools to notify town officials of hazardous conditions in walking areas which need to be corrected as well as those areas along bus routes.

This same responsibility shall also apply to state highways and the need to notify State Highway officials accordingly. Notification of such hazardous conditions shall be made to the Board of Selectmen of any district town and to the State Highway Department of the State of Connecticut in all cases of complaint, unless the Superintendent of Schools determines a complaint to be without legitimacy or to be frivolous.

VIII. Special Needs Students

A special needs student shall be provided with door-to-door service, by regular school bus service, where physically possible, or by van in those cases where door-to-door regular bus service is impractical.

IX. Exemptions Due to Physical Handicap/Health Conditions

Pupils possessing physical handicaps and/or health conditions rendering them unable to walk to either the bus stop or school, as determined by their physician or the school medical advisor, shall receive appropriate transportation.

X. Suspension of Transportation Services

The administration may suspend transportation services for any pupil whose conduct while awaiting or receiving transportation to and from school endangers persons or property or is in violation of a publicized policy of the Board or administration. Suspension of transportation services shall be in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 10-23c (as amended by P.A. 83-119).

XI. Use of Alternate Equipment

Where the conditions on designated bus routes substantially reduce the potential maneuverability of a standard size school bus, the transportation contractor, acting with the knowledge and permission of the Director of Business Services, shall have the right to use alternate equipment, provided the same meets all requirements of the State of Connecticut, and its substitution can be determined as increasing safety factors.

Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation (cont'd)

XII. Private Roads

This policy is applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with Act 78-201.

XIII. Exception

The Board of Education may grant an exception to any provision of this policy wherein a peculiar condition or combination of conditions renders such condition a hazard based upon reasonable judgment.

XIV. Definitions

Constituting an accepted part of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Bus transportation" means the procedures, program or a fully effective and implemented plan by which a pupil is conveyed to and/or from school from his/her residence, an acceptable day care location, the bus stop or other location approved by the Superintendent or designee, at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads approved pursuant to Public Act 78-201.
2. "Walking distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the pupil's residence and his school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil's resident to a point at the entrance of the school, or the bus pick-up area, or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school building entrance; or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus or vehicle embarkation point as established by the board of education.
3. "one-half (1/2) mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 2,640 feet, but not more than 2,740 feet. "one (1) mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280 feet, but not more than 5,380 feet. "one and one-half (1 1/2) mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 7,920 feet, but not more than 8,020 feet.
4. "Grade K" means Kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning pupil.

Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation (cont'd)

5. "Hazard" means a thing or condition, as prescribed in these policies, affecting the safety of pupils walking to and from school, or a designated bus pick-up area; a possible source of peril, danger, duress or difficulty (cf. Webster), exposure to molestation or attack considered morally degrading or physically harmful.
6. "Raised walk area or sidewalk" means a portion of the landscaped right of way at least three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved; distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area, fencing; apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
7. "Pupil" means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or non-profit private school located within the school district or contiguous school district as the case may be.
8. "Special needs student" is one who:
 - a. Because of a temporary or permanent physical disability has been certified by a licensed practicing physician or the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) as needing transportation other than that routinely provided.
 - b. Because of a psychological or emotional impairment, has been certified by a licensed practicing physician, or the (PPT), as needing of transportation other than that routinely provided.
9. For the purpose of this policy, "school buses" shall mean all Class II school buses and also vans that transport nine (9) or fewer students, such vans not meeting the definition of a Class II school bus.
10. "Day Care Location" means an organization, licensed by the State of Connecticut, which provides custodial care for children of pre-school age, through Grade 8 or the home of a family relative or acquaintance designated for the purpose of day care.

XV. Additional References

Hazardous conditions for bus routes are listed in the regulations of this policy - Part A.

The appeal process for suspension of transportation services or denial of transportation (due to a hazardous bus route) is listed in the regulations for this policy - Part B.

Hazardous walking conditions are listed in the regulations for this policy - Part C.

Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation (cont'd)

XV. Additional References

Also see Policy 5131 (Student - Conduct) and Regulations 5131.1 (Student - Bus Conduct) for expected behavior and consequences. Individual schools will annually publish their expectations and guidelines.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-76d re transportation for special education program and services
- 10-97 Transportation to vocational schools (as amended by P.A. 83-133; P.A. 83-119)
- 10-186 Duties of local and regional board of education. Hearing. Appeal (as amended by P.A. 83-119; 83-252)
- 10-187 Appeal from finding of hearing board
- 10-220 Duties of boards of education
- 10-220c Transportation of children over private roads. Immunity from liability
- 10-233(c) Suspension of pupils (as amended by P.A. 83-119)
- 10-273a Reimbursement for transportation to and from elementary and secondary schools
- 10-280a Transportation for pupils in nonprofit private schools within school district
- 10-281 Transportation for pupils in nonprofit private schools within school district
- 14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when
- 14-275b Transportation of handicapped students (as amended by P.A. 83 412)
- 14-280 Letters and signals to be concealed when not used in transporting children. Signs on other vehicles (as amended by P.A. 83-577)
- P.A. 82-205 Permits use of other than school buses for 15 or fewer students

Policy
 Adopted: 11/18/93
 Revised: 12/18/96
 Reviewed: 11/14/01
 Reviewed: 5/22/02
 Adopted: 8/14/02

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Brookfield, Connecticut