

POLICY

Board of Education Bernards Township

**File Code: M 8600
TRANSPORTATION**

The Board of Education shall transport eligible pupils to and from school and school related activities in accordance with law and this policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public and nonpublic school pupils, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

The Board will provide transportation to and from school for public school pupils in grades K-8 who live more than 2.0 miles from the school they attend, and in grades 9-12 who live more than 2.5 miles from the school they attend.

Subscription transportation services may be made available to all students ineligible for transportation due to the regulations of the State Department of Education if interest in this service can support the cost of the service. Each year, the Business Administrator will conduct a survey of the non-transported students to evaluate the interest in subscription busing. If the survey indicates a level of interest that can support the cost of subscription busing, the district will provide transportation consistent with that provided to eligible students.

The Board will transport pupils certified by a physician as temporarily disabled regardless of the distance between their home and school.

The Board will transport educationally disabled pupils in accordance with Policy No. 8670.

The Board will not be responsible for the transportation of nonresident pupils to or from school, except that transportation to and from school will be provided for homeless children for whom this District is determined to be the district of residence and for homeless children enrolled in this District when no district of residence has been determined.

The Board will provide transportation of pupils remote from schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. The Board will also transport resident children who attend a nonpublic or charter school in the State of New Jersey not more than twenty miles from their residence, but not a lesser distance from their residence than that required for the transportation of pupils enrolled in the school of this District. Aid in lieu of transportation will be provided to a parent/legal guardian pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1. When the schools of this District are closed for inclement weather or other conditions, no transportation will be provided for pupils enrolled in any public or nonpublic school.

When the Board provides transportation of pupils to and from county vocational schools and/or pupils classified pursuant to chapter 46 of N.J.S.A. 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and/or when the Board has in the prior year provided payments in lieu of transportation for any nonpublic schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 or the Board cannot provide transportation in the ensuing school year, the Board will utilize one of the agencies identified and published by the Commissioner of Education as providing cooperative transportation services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1. The Board will attempt to use one of

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the agencies prior to determining to pay aid in lieu of transportation. The Board will provide to the agency any unique limitations or restrictions of the required transportation. When the costs to provide transportation by one of the agencies is less than the aid in lieu of payments, the Board will contract with the agency to provide transportation. The Board will make the determination on the manner in which transportation services shall be provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 and shall notify the nonpublic school and the parent or guardian of the nonpublic school by August 1 prior to the beginning of the school year.

Transportation by one of these agencies will not be required when the local district can provide transportation at a lower cost than the agencies or the transportation provided by one of the agencies does not fall within the policies of the Board regarding length of ride and assignment of students to a route based on student age or classification.

The Board requires that all buses bid or purchased shall be equipped with seat belts. School bus drivers and all school bus passengers shall be required to wear seat belts when transported in school buses so equipped. Seat belts shall be fastened when the driver and passengers board the vehicle and they shall be kept fastened at all times while on board the vehicle. Seat belts may be unfastened only when the individual is departing the vehicle. The Board further requires that drivers and passengers using private vehicles to transport pupils wear seat belts in the same manner.

The Board requires that every school bus bid or purchased and used to transport public or non-public pupils be equipped with a crossing control arm at the right front corner of the bus. The arm must open and extend out from the bus at least 5 feet each time the bus door is opened.

Buses used to transport pupils must meet state standards. The operation and fiscal management of the District's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education Policy and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation.

The District will maintain a transportation handbook to serve as a procedure for this policy. The handbook will be posted on the district website and will function as a guide for parents, students, and staff.

The Business Administrator shall ensure that the Transportation Supervisor or the contracted agency shall:

- Prepare a map of the District on which each bus stop and bus route is indicated or, alternatively, prepare an itinerary of bus routes that may be used in conjunction with a map of the school District;
- Maintain such records and make such reports regarding school transportation as are required by the State Board of Education; and
- Prepare the specifications for each bus route or contract for which proposals will be sought by the Board.

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N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 39-3B-1 et seq.; N.J.S.A. 27:15-16;

N.J.A.C. 6:3-8.9; 6:21-1.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6:21-2.1 et seq.

Cross reference: Policy Nos. 2460, 5111, 8660, 8670

ADOPTED: October 26, 2009