

- Required
- Local**
- Notice

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

It is the policy of the Eastchester Union Free School District to provide transportation to and from school as required by New York State Education Law. Transportation beyond state mandated mileage limits will be provided only upon the approval of the District's voters. It is the intent of the Board of Education to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations pertinent to student transportation, and these shall govern any questions not covered by specific declaration of policy herein. The Board of Education affirms its goals of providing a safe and economical transportation system for District students, and to adapt the system to the demands of the instructional program. Transportation shall be provided at District expense only to those students who are eligible as authorized by the Board.

Eligibility

The Board's goal is to ensure that all students who fulfill District requirements for eligibility for transportation services do in fact receive it. The Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for determining student eligibility. Eligibility will be reviewed at least once a year to ensure that all entitled students receive transportation. It is the policy of the District, based on voter authorization, to provide transportation services to children in grades Kindergarten through Grade 1 who reside more than .25 and up to 15 miles from the school which they legally attend, to students in Grades 2-5 who reside more than .4 and up to 15 miles from the school they legally attend, and to students in grades 6-12 who reside more than .8 and up to 15 miles from the school they legally attend.

Resident students attending private and parochial schools inside and outside the District's boundaries shall be provided with transportation according to the same limits established for those attending public schools within the District. Requests for such transportation must be made to the Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee, by April 1st of each year, except for new residents who move into the District after that date. In such cases the request must be made within thirty (30) days after establishing residency within the District.

To qualify for transportation service, mileage shall be measured from the nearest roadway closest to the center point of the student's parcel to the center of the driveway (bus loop) in front of the building entrance of the school of attendance. The distance from the roadway to the center of the parcel is not included in the measurement. The measurement is based on the nearest, shortest route between home and school in either direction, either walking or driving, whichever is shortest. A property extending any amount into an eligibility zone shall be eligible for transportation. The official measurement method shall be the current transportation routing software utilized by the District, Transfinder, or any other routing software

the District may decide to implement. The Westchester County Geographic Information Systems Municipal Tax Parcel Viewer shall be used to confirm parcel boundaries. Should Transfinder be unable to calculate an accurate distance due to locations not available on District maps or other technical difficulties, the District shall utilize Google Maps to determine mileage eligibility.

Appeals

The Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee, shall make the final determination on eligibility. Any appeal of that final determination must be made in writing to the New York State Commissioner of Education.

Scheduling, Routing, and Bus Stops

Bus routes and bus stops shall be established annually by the District within the limitations of Board policy and in conformity with school attendance areas established by the Board. All routes and stops shall be reviewed at least annually with the goal of providing a safe and efficient transportation program.

Designated bus stops will be located at convenient intervals, in places where students may be loaded and unloaded, cross highways, and await the arrival of buses with the safety allowed by road conditions. Bus stops will be established so that generally, students will not be required to walk more than the mileage limits established by the District to a designated bus stop. Exceptions may be made in the event there is no safe bus stop within applicable limits of the student's home, it would require transportation over private roads, or other conditions exist that would make it impracticable to do so. No door-to-door bus service shall be permitted unless approved by the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education. It is the parent's responsibility to safely escort the student to the assigned bus stop and to monitor the student's behavior while at the bus stop. The District is responsible for each transported student only from the time he/she boards the bus, or until he/she leaves the school bus.

The following criteria will be used to determine the location of bus stops:

1. Centralized pickup points will be used with an average of ten (10) students/pickup for elementary and an average of fifteen (15) students/pickup for middle school and high school;
2. Generally, dead-end and loop streets will not be serviced by school buses;
3. Whenever possible, stops will be at the intersections of two streets.

Numbers of students at bus stops will vary according to the concentration of riders in an area, the degree of traffic, the presence of stop signs, speed limits, and bus turnaround requirements.

The District shall route buses to maximize ridership. Whenever possible, buses should be filled to capacity, with the goal to have an available seat only for those who are expected to ride the bus. The District may use actual ridership projections to assign students to buses.

The District shall post school bus schedules online with access to the schedules password protected.

Assignment of Students to Buses

Only authorized students may ride on a school bus. Students shall ride only those buses to which they have been assigned. However, the Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee, may permit a student to ride a bus other than the one normally assigned, if, in his/her judgment, circumstances warrant such a change.

Students will be transported to and from their approved bus stops within the District. Transportation may be permitted to and from an approved bus stop other than the child's assigned bus stop, after consideration of the following conditions:

1. A request is made in writing and approved by the Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee;
2. No deviation from the bus route is required;
3. Transportation schedules will not be disrupted;
4. Seating capacity of the vehicle will not be exceeded.

Transportation to/from Child Care Facilities

In lieu of the transportation otherwise provided between home and school, the District will provide transportation to any child attending Kindergarten through eighth grade between the child's school and before and/or after-school child care locations in accordance with the District's transportation mileage limitations. Child care location shall mean a place, other than the student's home, where care for less than 24 hours a day is provided on a regular basis for a student who attends school within the District, provided that such place is situated within the District. This definition includes, but is not limited to, a variety of child care services such as day care centers, family day care homes, and in-home care by non-relatives.

Transportation to/from child care centers and school age child care programs licensed or registered pursuant to New York State Social Services law § 390 shall be provided anywhere within the boundaries of the District. However, transportation to/from all other child care locations shall be limited to those within the student's attendance zone.

Bus changes may not be made on a daily basis. All child care transportation requests shall be made in writing and received by the District no later than April 1st preceding the beginning of the next school year. If a student moves into the District later than April 1st, the request should be received within thirty (30) days of establishing residency in the District, but preferably no later than August 1st.

If there is a need to change a child care location during the school year, a written request must be submitted to the District at least five days before the requested change. The District will accommodate such requests in accordance with the law and this policy provided that:

1. a route in the area exists;
2. space is available on the bus;
3. the District incurs no additional cost as a result of the change.

Ref: Education Law §§305(14); 1501-b; 1807; 3602(7); 3623; 3635 et seq.
Matter of Handicapped Child, 24 EDR 41 (1984)
Matter of Zakrezewski, 22 EDR 381 (1983)
Matter of Nowak, 22 EDR 91 (1982)
Matter of Fox, 19 EDR 439 (1980)

Adoption date: April 23, 2019