

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation

Transportation services shall be provided by the Board for all students in grades kindergarten through twelve which it deems eligible for such service.

Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish bus routes and designate bus stops, provide for student safety on buses and handle disciplinary hearings and complaints regarding school transportation.

In grades kindergarten through four, the maximum walking distance shall be one half mile. In grades five through twelve, the maximum walking distance shall be one mile. Total time elapsed between school and home shall include walking plus bus transportation, and shall not exceed one hour.

Special Education/504

Special education/504 students shall be adjudged on an individual basis, in accordance with their Individual Education Plans (IEPs)/504 Plans.

Parental Responsibility

Except for the circumstances set forth above, the responsibility for transportation, including travel to and from bus stops, shall rest with the student's parents or legal guardians.

It is not the responsibility of the Board of Education to make daily adjustments to transportation arrangements due to parent or legal guardian childcare needs.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education
 10-220 Duties of boards of education
 14-275 Equipment and color of school buses
 14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when.
 14-275b Transportation of handicapped students.
 14-275c Regulations re school buses and motor vehicles used to transport
 special education students.
 14-276a (c) Town/school district may require its school bus operators to
 have completed a safety training course.
 14-280 Letters and signals to be concealed when not used in transporting
 children. Signs on other vehicles.
 20 U.S.C. NCLB Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Title I, Section 1116
 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001, P.L. 107-
 110, 42 U.S.C., Sections 11431-11435

Policy adopted: June 8, 2016

ELLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Ellington, Connecticut

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation

Administrative Regulations

I. Transportation

The Ellington Board of Education shall furnish school transportation for each child five years of age and older and under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or a vocational school. This school accommodation may be withheld as provided in CGS 10-233c as amended (Suspension of Students) and CGS 10-233d as amended (Expulsion of Students). The following shall be used to define the transportation services provided by the Board of Education.

A. Definitions

1. **“School transportation”** means the procedure and programs by which a student is conveyed to and or from school from his/her residence or bus stop at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned transportation or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads pursuant to CGS 10-220c as amended.
2. **“Walking distance”** means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student’s residence and school from a point at the edge of a public or private road nearest the student’s bus residence to a point at the usual entrance of the school or to and from the student’s bus stop.
3. **“One mile”** means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extended from the point of measurement of at least 5,280 feet but not more than 5,380 feet.
4. **“Grade K”** means kindergarten or a school program appropriate to a beginning student.
5. **“Hazard”** means a thing or condition as prescribed in this policy affecting the safety of students walking to and from school or to and from the student’s bus stop. If a hazard is present, bus transportation will be provided or adjusted to eliminate the impact of the hazard.
6. **“Student”** means any individual of school age living in the school district and enrolled in a local Board of Education approved program.
7. **“Bus stop”** means a geographical location designated by the Board of Education or school administration where children can safely wait for purposes of boarding or disembarking a school bus.

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Transportation and Transportation Appeals

I. Transportation

A. Definitions (continued)

8. **“Sidewalk”** means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
9. **“Raised Walk Area”** means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately 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 or fencing; apart from and independent of any painted safety markings along the street pavement.
10. **“Daycare Provider”** means a commercial or home facility licensed by the State of Connecticut as either a Family Child Care Home, a Group Child Care Home, or a Child Care Center.

B. Travel Time

Under normal operating conditions, it is the goal of the Board of Education to transport a child to and from his/her school within a period of not more than one hour.

C. Walking Distances

The maximum walking distances from home to school or to and from the bus stop are:

1. Students enrolled in kindergarten – four, one half mile
2. Students enrolled in grades 5-12 one mile

Any walking route that is in excess of the above distances shall be considered a hazard.

D. Hazardous Conditions

A street or road that has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed a hazard when any one of the following conditions exist when students are either walking to and from school or walking to and from the bus stop.

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Transportation and Transportation Appeals

I. Transportation

D. Hazardous Conditions (continued)

For students enrolled grades K-4:

1. Any street, road or highway that possesses a traffic count of ninety or more vehicles per hour for students walking to and from school. The traffic count is taken during a twenty-minute period; ten minutes before and ten minutes after the normal bus pick up and drop off times.
2. Any street, road or highway possessing a speed limit in excess of thirty-five miles per hour and on which students have to walk to and from school or must walk along to and/or from their bus stop.
3. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, water-way, or bridge in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the student's walking route and the water.
4. 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 in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier.

For all students:

1. The usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as road construction, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on the road or street.
2. Any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of twenty-two feet.
3. Any bus stop or walk to and from school on a street, road, or highway that has no sidewalks or raised walk area when the line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, Connecticut Department of Transportation, or other reasonable standard.
4. Any street, road, walkway, or path designated as a walking route that passes through an area that has a history of aggressive acts of molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when students ordinarily walk to and from school or to and from the bus stop.

E. Special Education/504

Special education students shall be adjudged on an individual basis, in accordance with their Individual Education Plans (IEPs)/504 Plans.

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Transportation and Transportation Appeals

I. Transportation (continued)

F. Transportation Over Private Roads

1. No bus route or bus stop shall be established which requires a bus to travel over roads that are not maintained by the Town of Ellington or the State of Connecticut.

G. Dual Household, Alternate (Daycare), Special Circumstances Transportation Requests

1. Transportation requests will be processed pursuant to Forms #1 (Dual Household), #2 (Alternate) and #3 (Special Circumstances).

II. Transportation Appeals

A. Level I

All complaints concerning school transportation safety shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. All requests for a change in bus transportation accommodations shall first be heard by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall hear the transportation request/appeal as soon as reasonably possible. The Superintendent shall respond to the request in writing within five (5) working days after receiving all pertinent information relative to the requested adjustment in bus transportation. The Superintendent shall not deviate from established Board policy. The Superintendent shall give such parties notice of the right to request a hearing under Level II concerning the denial of school transportation or changes thereto.

B. Level II

1. A committee of not less than three (3) Board of Education members shall hold a hearing within ten (10) working days of receipt of a written appeal of the Superintendents' denial of school transportation or changes thereto.
2. The committee shall make a written record or audio recording of such hearing.
3. The committee shall render a written decision within ten (10) working days of such hearing.
4. Should the committee render a decision that denies the appealing party's request, the committee shall include with its written decision, the procedures and timetable for filing an appeal with the State Department of Education.

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Transportation and Transportation Appeals

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