

GENERAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION POLICY

**I. Legal Basis for Transportation of Pupils**

The District shall provide transportation for pupils to schools in the Washington and Hillsboro-Deering District consistent with provisions of RSA 189:6, 189:9. The following policies shall apply:

**II. Transportation Supervisor**

The Superintendent will designate a member of the school administration who shall oversee the operation of the school's transportation system and will receive and answer all questions relating to General School Transportation Policies.

**III. Local School Bus Eligibility Policy**

A. All elementary, middle and high school students in the Washington School District living two miles or more from the school are eligible for bus transportation.

1. Students may be required to walk up to a distance of one mile to a designated bus stop. With approval from the Commissioner of Education, the school district may require students to walk a distance not to exceed 1 1/2 miles when the road is unsafe or inaccessible for bus travel (See RSA 189:8).
2. No deviation will be made to pick up students living less than one mile from a designated school bus stop except, in the consideration of the School Board, extenuating circumstances and/or hardship exist.

B. In areas where traffic hazards prevail, it shall be the prerogative of the School Board to allow students living less than two miles from school to ride the bus, providing the bus does not have to deviate from its established route and providing there is available space.

C. Students who are not eligible for bus transportation shall not ride the bus for any reason unless granted permission by the building principal or his/her designee. Under no circumstances shall the bus driver or the carrier determine such eligibility.

D. Students not wishing to ride home on the bus, or who wish to be discharged at a stop other than their home stop, on a particular day, must have written permission from parents to the Principal.

E. Bus riders may not be discharged at a stop other than the school on the incoming trip.

**IV. General Operating Policy**

A. Bus routes shall be established by the Superintendent, subject to review by the Board. Routes will be developed annually and posted.

B. Private school transportation will be integrated where possible and when required by law.

C. Bus stops shall be established under the direction of the Superintendent and subject to review by the School Board. Drivers may not load or unload pupils at other than authorized bus stops.

**V. Student Conduct on School Buses**

When a student is riding in a school bus, he/she becomes the responsibility of the School District. The bus driver will have responsibility to maintain orderly behavior of students on school buses and will report misconduct to the student's Principal in writing. Video cameras may be used on buses to support the bus driver's reports of unacceptable conduct. The school principal will have the authority delegated by the Superintendent to suspend the riding privileges of students who are disciplinary problems on the bus by failing to conform to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board. Parents of children whose pattern of behavior and conduct on school buses endangers the health, safety and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of school bus riding privileges in accordance with the student discipline code. Suspensions to continue beyond twenty (20) days must be approved by the Board.

**VI. Resolution of Conflicts**

A parent who wishes to request a change or exemption from any of the Student Transportation policies shall direct that request first to the SAU Transportation Coordinator. If the parent is not satisfied by the ruling of the SAU Transportation Coordinator, he or she may appeal the ruling within five days to the School Business Administrator. If the parent is again not satisfied by the ruling, he or she may appeal to the Superintendent within the next five-day period. As a last appeal, the parent may request to appear before the School Board.

**Appendix: EEA-R**

**Legal References:**

*RSA 189:6, Transportation of Pupils*

*RSA 189:6a, School Bus Safety*

*RSA 189:8, Limitations and Additions*

*RSA 189:9, Pupils in Private schools*

*RSA 189:9a, Pupils prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons*

*RSA 200:40, Emergency Care*

**Replaces existing Transportation Policy and Bus Passes addition to that policy**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 04/25/06

Board Approval: 05/23/06