

WALKERS AND RIDERS

The following guidelines shall be observed in an effort to provide a safe and efficient program by which students may walk or be transported by bus to their schools:

Walking Policies

1. Students attending PreK-Grade 6 elementary school shall walk up to one mile to their elementary schools.
2. Students in grades 7-12 shall walk up to one and one-quarter miles to their school.
3. Distances are measured from the nearest school entrance along a reasonable route to home.
4. The police and the highway department shall be notified of the roads used by walkers and shall be requested to keep these roads as safe as possible by controlling highway speeds, keeping the roads clear of snow, and by providing crossing guards to the extent possible at intersections and main crossing points, when school officials and police deem such areas unsafe for normal unsupervised crossing.

Riding Policies

1. Transportation shall be provided for all special education students whose handicap necessitates such transportation and others as prescribed by law or deemed advisable by the board.
2. Students attending Pre-K-Grade 6 elementary school shall walk up to one-half mile to their designated bus stop.
3. Students in grades 7-12 shall walk up to one and one-quarter miles to their designated bus stop.
4. Bus stops will be chosen with concern for numbers, and safety of the children involved, and with concern for traffic conditions in the area.
5. Bus drivers shall pick up students only at scheduled bus stops and shall not exceed the legal bus capacity.

6. Riding students living on a dead-end road, where the walking distance to the main road is less than a mile and a quarter, will walk to the designated bus stop on the main road and be transported from there to their respective schools.
7. Riding students who live on a road that does not meet minimum state/town road improvement standards, regardless of the length of the road, will be required to walk to a bus stop on a road that does meet such standards and be transported from there to their respective schools, provided those children live the required distance from their schools.
8. The school department shall not be responsible for providing transportation to students who fail to be at their bus stops at designated times.
9. Students shall ride only on assigned buses. At the close of school, they shall be transported only to the original pick-up point and they shall not be permitted to disembark at other points or to ride other buses, unless other orderly arrangements are made with school officials.

Processing of Requests for a Policy Exception

Exceptions to this policy may be made by the administration, with the approval of the board, under the following conditions:

1. The only exception that may be considered under this policy is a safety hazard.
2. All requests for exception to this policy shall be made through the administration.
3. The administration shall thoroughly investigate the condition or conditions that promoted the request for an exception.
4. The administration shall request the police to investigate and prepare a written report on any suggested safety hazard that might endanger a walking student.
5. All reasonable means of eliminating a safety hazard will be pursued thoroughly, before any exception to this policy is made on that basis.
6. The administration shall submit to the board all pertinent information obtained in an investigation of a suggested safety hazard. Upon receipt of such information, the board shall make every reasonable effort to arrive at an early decision as to whether or not the requested exceptions shall be granted. In an emergency situation, the administration may make an exception under this provision of the policy for a period of time not to exceed the time to the next regular or special meeting of the board.

7. Each exception will be reviewed at least annually to determine if the reason for the exception is still valid. A continuous effort will be made to follow up on and to eliminate the condition that was the basis for the exception. Any exception for which corrective action has been completed will be terminated following a 30-day notice to those involved.

Adopted: 3/8/76

Amended: 8/18/77; 8/28/79; 8/9/80; 4/8/09

Department of Public Schools, Augusta, Maine