8600 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education shall transport eligible students to and from school and school related activities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1 et seq., and Board policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public and nonpublic school students, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

Nonpublic school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident students in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1 et seq.

Charter or renaissance school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident students in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-3.1 et seq.

Students with special needs shall be provided transportation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., and with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1.

The Board will approve all bus routes each school year. Bus routes for all non-remote students who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes will be designated and approved by the Board. The Board may consider, but shall not be limited to, the criteria outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5 in determining "Hazardous Routes."

The Board will not be responsible for the transportation of nonresident students to or from school, except that transportation to and from school will be provided for homeless students; students residing in group homes; students residing in resource family homes; and students residing in shared custody homes pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-6.2, 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5.

The Board shall utilize cooperative/coordinated transportation services in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-10.1 et seq. The Board shall utilize one of the agencies prior to determining to pay aid in lieu of transportation if in the prior year payments in lieu of transportation were provided. The Board will provide to the cooperative/coordinated transportation services any unique limitations or restrictions of the required transportation.

Vehicles used to transport students to and from school or school related activities shall meet standards, registration, and inspection requirements of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC), and any applicable Federal regulations. The operation and fiscal management of the district's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the New Jersey State Board of Education and the NJDOE.

In addition to the provisions of any State law, rule, or regulation containing more stringent requirements, provided that those requirements are compatible with Federal law, and

notwithstanding the provisions of any State law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, school bus operations in the State shall comply with the requirements outlined in N.J.S.A. 39:3B-27.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; 18A:39-1 et seq.;18A:39-11.1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 27:15-16
N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.; 39:3B-2.1; 39:3B-10; 39:3B-27
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 et seq.; 6A:27-2.1 et seq.;
6A:27-3.1 et seq.; 6A:27-4.1 et seq.; 6A:27-5.1;
6A:27-6.2 through 6.5;
6A:27-7.1 et seq.; 6A:27-9.1 et seq.;
6A:27-10.1 et seq.; 6A:27-11.1 et seq.;
6A:27-12.1 et seq.

BOE Revised Date: 10/24/2019
BOE Approved Date: 5/16/2019

R 8600 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

General Requirements - Students Remote From School

A. The Board will transport:

1. Students who reside remote, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.2(a)1. and (a)2., from their assigned district school of attendance;

2. Nonpublic school students who reside remote from their school of attendance and meet the eligibility criteria of N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2;

3. Charter school students pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3.1 et seq.;

4. Students with special needs shall be provided transportation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1;

5. School choice students pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-4.1 et seq.; and

6. Special population students pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-6.2 through 6.5.

The Board will approve all bus routes each school year. us routes for all non-remote students who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes will be designated and approved by the Board. The Board will approve a list of hazardous routes in the district requiring the courtesy busing of students and the criteria used in designating the hazardous routes. In adopting Policy and Regulation 8600 and the list of hazardous routes, the Board may consider, but shall not be limited to the criteria outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5

1. Population density;

2. Traffic volume;

3. Average vehicle velocity;

4. Existence or absence of sufficient sidewalk space;

5. Roads and highways that are winding or have blind curves;

6. Roads and highways with steep inclines and declines;

7. Drop-offs that are in close proximity to a sidewalk;

8. Bridges or overpasses that must be crossed to reach the school;

9. Train tracks or trestles that must be crossed to reach the school; and

10. Busy roads or highways that must be crossed to reach the school.

A school district shall work in conjunction with municipal officials in determining the criteria necessary for the designation of a hazardous route.

Cooperative Transportation Services

A. The Board shall utilize cooperative/coordinated transportation services in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C 6A:27-10.1 et seq.

School Bus Use and Standards

A. All buses bid or purchased shall be equipped in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-10 – School Bus Safety Equipment.

B. 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 students wear seat belts in the same manner.

C. There shall be displayed on every bus subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1, signs or legends which will, insofar as practicable, inform the driver of any vehicle concerning the duty imposed upon him/her by law with respect to passing a bus, while it is loading or unloading. The signs or legends shall be in a color, form, and design as will meet the requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education.

An agency, Board of Education, nonpublic school, or school bus contractor operating a school bus subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 shall display across the rear of the school bus a telephone number, website address, or other identifying information which shall allow the public to report a bus driver's misconduct while operating the school bus to the Board of Education or nonpublic school for which the school bus provides transportation. The lettering shall be of a color that contrasts with the color of the school bus.

The Board of Education or nonpublic school shall comply with New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) regulations regarding: the appropriate Board of Education or nonpublic school official or designee to address and respond to a complaint of school bus driver misconduct; the appropriate actions which a Board of Education or nonpublic school may take to respond to a complaint of school bus driver misconduct; and the time period during which a Board of Education or nonpublic school

may act to respond to a complaint of school bus driver misconduct in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-2.1.

D. The Board requires every school bus bid or purchased that is used to transport public, non-public**,** charter**,** and/or renaissance school students will 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 five feet each time the bus door is opened.

E. School bus purchase, use and standards must meet Federal and State standards and must be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. – Public School Contracts Law.

Operation and Management of Transportation System

A. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall

1. 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;

2. Prepare and promulgate procedures to be followed in the event of a bus emergency, bus safety, bus driver training and rules governing the conduct of all students transported by the Board in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 et seq. and 6A:27-12.1 et seq.

3. Maintain such records and make such reports regarding school transportation as are required by the State Board of Education; and

4. Prepare the specifications for each bus route or contract for which proposals will be sought by the Board in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.1 et seq.

B. 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 NJDOE.