

## TRANSPORTATION

The district may provide transportation to and from school for a student:

- A. Whose residence is beyond the one-mile radius from the school to which the student is assigned;
- B. Whose walking route to school is hazardous;
- C. Whose disability prevents him/her from walking or providing for his/her own welfare while walking; or
- D. Who has another compelling and legally sufficient reason to receive transportation services. The parent or guardian of a student whose assigned bus stop is beyond the maximum walking distance may receive reimbursement for private transportation at the state mileage reimbursement rate if determined to be in the district's best interest.

At the request of an eligible student, the district may allow the student to transport his or her infant on a school bus or other student transportation vehicle provided by the district. The infant must be transported in a rear-facing child restraint system as defined in the federal motor vehicle safety standards found in 49 C.F.R. § 572.213. If the district denies the student's request to transport his or her infant by school bus, the district must authorize other arrangements for individual transportation in accordance with RCW 28A.160.030. For purposes of this paragraph, "eligible student" means any student served by the transportation program of the district or compensated for individual transportation arrangements authorized by RCW [28A.160.030](#) whose route stop is outside the walk area for a student's school, except if the student to be transported is disabled under RCW [28A.155.020](#) and is either not ambulatory or not capable of protecting his or her own welfare while traveling to or from the school or agency where special education services are provided, in which case no mileage distance restriction applies.

The district's transportation program shall comply in all ways with state law and regulation. Transportation services of the district may include approved bus routes, district-approved field trips, school activities (participants only) and extracurricular activities (rooters). The superintendent or designee is authorized to permit a parent of a student enrolled in school to ride a bus when excess seating is available and private or other public transportation is not reasonably available.

The board of directors may authorize children attending an approved private school to ride a school bus provided that the bus route and stops are not altered, space is available, and a fee to cover the per seat cost for such transportation is collected.

## ROUTES AND SCHEDULES

The superintendent or designee shall be responsible for scheduling bus transportation, including the determination of routes and bus stops as well as overseeing the transportation program.

The purpose of bus scheduling and routing is to achieve maximum service with an optimum fleet of buses insofar as this is consistent with rendering safe and reasonably equal service to all students entitled to such service. The superintendent may authorize the use of a district-owned passenger car in lieu of a bus for transporting students to and from school.

In order to operate the transportation system as safely and efficiently as possible, the following factors shall be considered in establishing bus routes:

- A. Where an alternate route may be considered without sacrifice of efficiency or economy, preference shall be given to that route more directly serving the largest number of students.
- B. Location of bus stops may be determined by such factors as student safety, economy and efficiency. Students may be required to walk up to one mile from their home to their bus stop provided that the walking route is safe.
- C. School schedules shall be adjusted to allow maximum utilization of each bus in the system.

The district shall apply for state transportation apportionment funds and shall maintain the records required to obtain such funding.

## **EMERGENCY ROUTES AND SCHEDULES**

The district shall develop emergency bus routes and schedules to be used when weather conditions make the usual routes impassable or, in the superintendent's or designee's judgment, too hazardous. At the beginning of the school year, copies of emergency routes and schedules shall be distributed to parents with instructions on how to obtain emergency information.

If roads are closed to buses, the district may continue to operate the instructional programs of the schools without providing bus transportation until the roads are again open to buses.

## **CONTRACTING AND LEASING OF BUSES**

The district may contract with outside qualified firms for the operation of the pupil transportation. If this option is elected the district shall engage in an open competitive process for selection of a pupil transportation contractor at least every five years.

The district authorizes the transportation contractor to lease contractor owned buses during times when buses are not needed for district purposes. Transportation contractors must agree that the needs and desires of the district shall be completely met prior to using or leasing buses for other purposes.

Legal References:	RCW 28A160	Student Transportation
	28A.160.020	Authorization for private school students to ride buses — Conditions
	28A.160.030	Authorizing individual transportation or other arrangements
	28A.160..160	Student Transportation allocations – Definitions
	28A.160.240	Transportation of infants
	WAC 392-141	Transportation – State Allocation for Operations
	WAC 392-172A-02095	Transportation

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