

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

OPERATIONS
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Transportation-M

8600 TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education shall transport eligible ~~pupils~~ 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 ~~pupils~~ students, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones ~~to regular school activities.~~

~~The Board will provide transportation to and from school for public and nonpublic school pupils in grades Kindergarten through 8 who live more than two (2) miles from the school they attend and in grades 9 through 12 who live more than two and a half (2.5) miles from the school they attend, as determined in N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1 et seq.~~

~~The Board will transport pupils certified by the school physician as temporarily disabled and in need of such services, regardless of the distance between their home and school.~~

~~The Board will transport pupils with special needs in accordance with NJSA 18A:39-1 et seq., Policy No. 8670 and in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP).~~

~~If the District assigns a student to attend a school outside his or her home area and the school is more than one mile from the student's home, the student is eligible for transportation provided by the District. The District makes such assignments to maintain the pairing of Jefferson and Marshall Elementary Schools and to provide a service or program only offered at a specific school, including but not limited to the ESL program and the Demonstration Program at Seth Boyden.~~

~~The District may approve a parent or guardian's request to transfer a student to a school outside the student's home area, but the District will not provide transportation.~~

~~A shuttle bus service is provided between South Mountain and the Annex. Kindergarten and first grade students in the South Mountain area may walk to South Mountain and ride the shuttle to the Annex. Students in grades 2-5 may walk to the Annex and ride the shuttle to South Mountain.~~

~~In the event that courtesy busing is provided due to hazardous conditions, such transportation shall be provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5, and the Board directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to prepare regulations in this regard. The District will work with the public safety offices of the Township of Maplewood and the Village of South Orange to identify hazardous routes using the criteria in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5. Students who are required to walk along routes that have been identified as hazardous by the South Orange Village Department of Public Safety are eligible for transportation. The routes are included as an addendum to this policy.~~

~~The parent or guardian for each student eligible for transportation must submit an Application for School Transportation for each school year even if transportation has been provided in the past. The application is available in the school office, the transportation department, and the registration office. The district shall document receipt of applications for school transportation and determine students' eligibility for transportation.~~

~~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.~~

~~[Only Required for School Districts that Provide Courtesy Busing~~

~~The Board may provide transportation to and from school for public school students less than remote.]~~

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[Optional for School Districts Limiting Time a Student is Riding on a School Bus

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The Board has determined that no public school student in grades _____ to _____ shall be required to ride a school bus more than _____ minutes one way per day.]

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[Optional for School Districts Limiting a Student's Walking Distance to Bus Stops

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Students in grades _____ shall not be required to walk more than _____ miles to the bus stop to which they have been assigned.]

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[Optional for School Districts that Provide Transportation to a Student with a Temporary Disability

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The Board will transport students certified by a physician as temporarily disabled regardless of the distance between their home and school.]

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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.

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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."

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The Board will not be responsible for the transportation of nonresident ~~pupils~~ students to or from school, except that transportation to and from school will be provided for homeless ~~children~~ student; 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.

~~for whom this district is determined to be the district of residence who are attending school in this district but temporarily reside in another district; and for homeless children enrolled in this district who meet the distance requirements noted above when no district of residence has been determined. If this district is the district of residence of a homeless child enrolled in another district, the Board shall pay the costs of transportation for that child to the other district.~~

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[Only required for any school district located in a county of the third class with a population of not less than 80,000 and not more than 120,000. A third class county is defined as a county that does not border the Atlantic Ocean and has a population between 50,000 and 200,000.

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Transportation services will be provided in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2(c)1, and this Policy to a nonpublic school located outside the State not more than twenty miles from the student's home.]

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When the schools of this district are closed for inclement weather or other conditions, no transportation will be provided for ~~pupils~~ students enrolled in any public or nonpublic school, charter school, and/or renaissance school. ~~In the event of an early dismissal, e.g., due to inclement weather, transportation from school to home shall be provided to those pupils who normally receive transportation home by the district.~~

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.

~~When the Board provides transportation of pupils to and from county vocational schools and/or pupils classified pursuant to Chapter 46 of N.J.S.A. 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and when the Board has in the prior year provided payments in lieu of transportation for any nonpublic schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 or the Board cannot provide transportation in the ensuing school year, the Board will utilize one of the agencies identified and published by the Commissioner of Education as providing cooperative transportation services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1. The Board will attempt to use one of the agencies prior to determining to pay aid in lieu of transportation. The Board will provide to the agency any unique limitations or restrictions of the required transportation.~~

~~When the costs to provide transportation to nonpublic schools by one of the agencies is less than the aid in lieu of payments, the Board will contract with the agency to provide transportation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1. The Board will make the determination on the manner in which transportation services shall be provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 and shall notify the nonpublic school and the parent or guardian of the nonpublic school by August 1 prior to the beginning of the school year. The District shall not expend more than the maximum per student expenditure for nonpublic school transportation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1. Transportation by a contracted agency will not be required when the local district can provide transportation at a lower cost than the agencies or the transportation provided by one of the agencies does not fall within the policies of the Board regarding length of ride and assignment of students to a route based on student age or classification.~~

~~The District shall prepare the Nonpublic School Transportation Form and the procedures for nonpublic transportation as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, and shall submit such forms to the nonpublic school located within the District. The District shall document receipt of applications for nonpublic school transportation and determine students' eligibility for transportation. The District shall provide notice of eligibility to the parents/guardians and nonpublic school administrators by August 1st of each year.~~

~~The District shall prepare the Nonpublic School Transportation Summary Form and shall submit the forms to the nonpublic school administrators in January and May for certification of each semester, respectively. The Board shall evaluate the January and May certification reports and, if approved, shall continue to provide~~

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~~transportation services. The Request for Payment of Transportation Aid voucher, as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, shall be sent to all parents or legal guardians of eligible students who are to receive first and second semester aid in lieu of transportation payments. The Board shall then pay aid in lieu of transportation to the parents or legal guardians of these students after receiving the signed Request For Payment of Transportation Aid vouchers from the parents or legal guardians. The District is not required to pay aid in lieu of transportation when the parent or legal guardian of the nonpublic school student returns the signed payment voucher after the end of the fiscal year.~~

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~~Vehicle Use and Standards for Transportation will be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.1 et seq. and Board policy. The Board requires that all buses bid or purchased shall be equipped with seat belts. 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 pupils wear seat belts in the same manner.~~

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~~The Board requires every school bus bid or purchased that is used to transport public or non-public pupils 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 5 feet each time the bus door is opened.~~

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~~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 Department of Education Policy and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation.~~

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~~The Superintendent or his/her 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;~~

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~~2. Prepare and promulgate procedures to be followed in the event of a bus emergency and rules governing the conduct of all pupils transported by the Board;~~

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

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~~4. Prepare the specifications for each bus route or contract for which proposals will be sought by the Board; and~~

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~~5. Prepare regulations for courtesy transportation.~~

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~~N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.; 39:3B-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1 et seq.~~

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Cross References: 2460, 5111, 8660, 8670

Initial Adoption: November 17, 2003

~~First Reading: September 8, 2003~~ March 15, 2021

~~Second Reading: November 17, 2003~~

~~Adopted: November 17, 2003~~ Latest Adoption:

ADDENDUM—Effective November 17, 2003

As of the date of this addendum, the Township of South Orange Village, Department of Public Safety, has specified the following routes as hazardous for children walking to Marshall and South Mountain Schools:

1. The route from Montrose area to Marshall School along Montrose Avenue to Grove Road.
2. The route from Montrose area to Marshall School along Vose Avenue to Raymond Avenue to Grove Road.
3. The route to South Mountain School along Irvington Avenue to South Orange Avenue.
4. The route to South Mountain School along 3rd Street to South Ridgewood Road to South Orange Avenue.