

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
March 26, 2026

RESOLUTION 4944

FOR ACTION

**SUBJECT: DISCONTINUATION OF COURTESY TRANSPORTATION FOR
NON-REMOTE STUDENTS BEGINNING THE 2026–2027
SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1, boards of education in New Jersey are required to provide mandatory transportation to “remote” students, defined generally as students who reside more than two (2) miles from their assigned public elementary school; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 further authorizes, but does not require, boards of education to provide courtesy transportation to students who reside within the statutory remote limits, subject to the discretion of the board and the availability of funds; and

WHEREAS, the South Orange–Maplewood Board of Education (“Board”) has historically provided courtesy transportation to certain non-remote pre-k students; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed its transportation obligations, fiscal considerations, and statutory authority and has determined that the continuation of courtesy transportation for non-remote pre-k students is discretionary and not legally mandated under New Jersey law; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that transportation provided pursuant to a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a related service required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:46-1 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.1 and 6A:14-3.7, and is not subject to elimination through changes to courtesy transportation policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to provide clear advance notice to families regarding transportation eligibility for future school years while continuing to meet all mandatory transportation obligations imposed by state and federal law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, effective beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, the South Orange–Maplewood Board of Education shall discontinue courtesy transportation for pre–k students who do not qualify as “remote” students under N.J.S.A. 18A:39–1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board shall continue to provide mandatory transportation to all pre–k students who meet the statutory definition of “remote” students in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39–1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution shall be construed to alter, limit, or deny transportation services required pursuant to a student’s IEP, which shall continue to be provided as required by federal and state special education law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools or designee is authorized and directed to implement this resolution, update administrative procedures and family communications accordingly, and provide timely notice to parents and guardians regarding transportation eligibility for the 2026–2027 school year and beyond.