

TRANSPORTATION

The purpose of this policy is to establish specific guidelines governing transportation of students to and from school, to athletic and extra-curricular events, as well as out-of-district transportation of special needs and vocational education students under the auspices of the School Committee and in compliance with the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

The School Committee will provide transportation to and from school for students who live one and one half miles or more from school. A student is considered living more than 1 1/2 miles if any portion of the house lot frontage where he/she resides is more than 1 1/2 miles from the school. In the event of specific safety hazards or lack of sidewalks along heavily traveled highways, the School Committee may furnish transportation to students living less than a mile and half from school.

The School Committee may provide transportation for athletic teams, coaches, cheerleaders, bands, and any other groups composed of students from the school which bear the school name and are under the control of the School Committee.

The School Committee may choose to form a Transportation Committee and to annually appoint individuals to said committee. The School Committee will specify the authority, responsibilities, and rules delegated to said committee.

Students may only ride assigned buses. The assigned buses will be based on a student's legal residence. Any requests for changes in a student's assigned bus or bus stop must be requested through the Transportation Committee. The Transportation Committee may approve changes that utilize existing bus stops, provided enough room exists on the bus. In the event that a bus becomes filled to capacity or additional room does not exist, resident students assigned to said bus based on their home address will receive priority. No approval will be granted if the change would result in excessive bus stops on a particular route or if the extra time needed will cause the bus to arrive late to school.

Students attending before or after school programs may ride different buses or buses to a different school only with the building principal's permission. However, the students must use existing bus stops; bus stops or routes will not be changed without approval of the Transportation Committee.

The bus contractor will determine, the configuration of the bus routes subject to all other provisions of the law, and designate the location of bus stops prior to the start of school each year.

Any changes in the bus route(s) will require formal approval of the Transportation Committee.

Any transportation involving a student with Special Needs as determined by the Director of Pupil Services.

Students attending approved private elementary and private high schools (located within the boundaries of the Town) shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges regarding transportation to and from school as are provided by law for pupils of public schools and shall not be denied such transportation because their attendance is in a school which is conducted under religious auspices or includes religious instruction in its curriculum.

Under specific provisions and conditions set forth in the General Laws, the School Committee will provide transportation for special segments of the student population as follows:

- a) Students with special needs to educational programs as prescribed in the Individual Educational Plan.
- b) Students to other towns for vocational education programs not available in their own town.

The School Committee will support a policy of allowing “**no standees.**” A “Standee” as defined is the result of more students riding a bus than the stated capacity of said bus.

Kindergarten students shall be identified as a separate category. Within this separate category, the School Committee shall be allowed additional discretion in designation of walking distances, both to and from schools and bus stops. It shall be the intent of this provision that this discretion be used to provide more substantial services to kindergarten students than shall be provided to other grade levels of students.

Students attending the Granby Public Schools who are defined as “School Choice” may be allowed to utilize transportation services after receiving permission from the Business Manager provided room exists on the bus and the route or stops are not altered. Any person(s) requesting an additional bus stop or a change in a bus route for a “school choice” child/children must have Transportation Committee approval.

Bus Safety Training will be conducted in the following manner:

- a) Two bus evacuation drills will be conducted during the school year. These drills consist of the students physically exiting a bus through the emergency exits. These drills will be held with the assistance of the Granby Police Department’s School Safety Officer.
- b) Two classroom training sessions of bus safety instruction will be conducted annually in grades K – 6.

Adopted May 3, 2004