

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation Services

Statement of Policy

This policy applies to students enrolled in the New Milford Public Schools and such other schools as the district is mandated to provide pupil transportation services. The Superintendent of Schools shall administer the district's operations in such a manner as to:

1. provide for the reasonable safety of students.
2. supplement and reinforce desirable student behavior patterns.
3. assist handicapped students appropriately.
4. enrich the instructional program through carefully planned field trips as recommended by the staff.

Definitions

1. "Bus stop" means a geographical location designated by the Board of Education or School Administration where pupils can board or disembark from a school bus.
2. "School transportation" means the procedure, program, or fully effective and implemented plan by which a pupil is conveyed to and/or from school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads approved pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
3. "Walking distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the pupil's residence and his/her school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil's residence to a point at the entrance of the school, or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school building entrance or the bus pick-up area, or route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus vehicle embarkation point established by the New Milford Board of Education.
4. "One mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement up to 5,280 feet.
5. "Grade K" means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning pupil.
6. "Hazard" means a thing or condition, as prescribed in this policy under "Hazardous Condition—Transportation Guidelines" that affects the safety of pupils walking to and from school, and/or bus stop.

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Definitions (continued)

7. "Sidewalk" means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any painted safety markings along the street pavement.
8. "Raised walk area" means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any painted safety markings along the street pavement.
9. "Pupil" means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or nonprofit private school located within the school district or contiguous school district as the case may be.
10. "Backing" of the school bus shall be avoided, if possible. When backing maneuvers cannot be avoided, children shall be retained inside the bus. If there are children outside the bus, no backing maneuvers shall be made unless a competent adult observer is on hand to direct the maneuver.

Provision of Transportation

Transportation by private carrier may be provided whenever such practice is more economical than using school district-owned/leased facilities.

The Board of Education will furnish transportation to resident public students living outside of the following limits, based on the most direct route from the students' home beginning at a point at the curb or edge of a public road or highway nearest the home to the edge of the school property or bus pickup area:

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Distance</u>
K-2 students	0.5 mile
3-8 students	1 mile
9-12 students	1.5 miles

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Students living within these limits will receive transportation when, in the opinion of the Board, a hazard is present.

Cul-de-Sac/Dead Ends

Except in cases where hazardous conditions exist as defined in this Policy, buses will not enter any Cul-de-Sac or Dead End Road which distance is the same or less than that proscribed for the grade level of children being transported as referenced in Provision of Transportation.

Riding Time

It is an objective of this policy that students not be required to spend more than one hour, each way, riding on the school bus. It is understood that in some instances this objective may not be achieved due to the following but not limited to road conditions, weather conditions, and the number of stops required on a particular route.

Hazardous Conditions—Transportation Guidelines

1. Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of the previously designated walking distances shall be deemed hazardous.
2. A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exists:
 - (a) For pupils enrolled in grades K through 2, the absence of pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and a street crossing where there are no stop signs or cross guards and the traffic count during the time that pupils are walking to or from school exceeds sixty vehicles per hour at the intersection;
 - (b) For pupils enrolled in grades 3 through 12, the absence of pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and a street crossing where there are no stop signs or cross guards and the traffic count during the time that pupils are walking to or from school exceeds ninety vehicles per hour at the intersection;
 - (c) For all pupils, any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty miles per hour which do not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where pupils must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop;

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- (d) For all pupils, the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open man-holes, construction, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on walkways, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking areas at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, and the like, including such nuisance which are hazardous or attractive to children.
 - (e) For all pupils, the usual or frequent presence of snow plowed or piled on the walk area making walkways unusable and the presence of any of the conditions described in Sections 3(a)-(c) immediately hereafter.
3. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist:
- (a) For pupils enrolled in grades K through 2, any street, road or highway possessing a traffic count of sixty or more vehicles per hour at the time that pupils are walking to or from schools or bus stops;
 - (b) For all pupils, the presence of man-made hazards including attractive nuisances, as described in Section 2(d) immediately preceding this section;
 - (c) Any street, road, or highway possessing a speed limit in excess of thirty miles per hour;
4. Any bus stop located on any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous when the line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation. Due to the rural nature of the New Milford community, it is not possible to apply these line-of-sight requirements to the pedestrian route to and from a bus stop when such pedestrian route is along a road(s) with a speed limit of 25 miles per hour or less. Similarly, these line-of-sight requirements do not apply to bus stops serving a single family at a location adjacent to their property.
5. Any walkway, path, or bridge in an area adjacent or parallel to railroad tracks shall be considered hazardous unless a suitable physical barrier along the entire pedestrian route is present and fixed between pupils and the tracks; and any crossing of railroad tracks that carry moving trains during hours that pupils are walking to or from school shall be deemed hazardous unless, (1) a crossing guard is present; or (2) an automatic control bar is present at crossings used by pupils under age ten, or, a bar or red flashing signal light is operational when the crossing is used by pupils.

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Hazardous conditions – Transportation Guidelines (continued)

6. Any walkway, path, or bridge adjacent or parallel to a lake, pond, stream, culvert, water-way, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard for pupils in grades K through 5 in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water.
7. Any area adjacent to a roadway, sidewalk, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes, the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades K through 5.
8. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route for all school pupils that passes through an area which has a history of aggressive acts of molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when pupils ordinarily walk to or from school shall be deemed hazardous.
9. Walking to or from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise or any time one-half hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades K through 5.
10. These guidelines are applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
11. Pupils with physical handicaps and/or health conditions rendering them unable to walk to either the bus stop or school, as determined by their physician and the school district's medical advisor, shall receive appropriate transportation.
12. Exception: The New Milford Board of Education may grant an exception to any provision of this guideline where a peculiar condition or combination of conditions renders such condition(s) a hazard based upon reasonable judgment.

Students Receiving Special Education

Any modifications of these transportation services for special education pupils and pupils eligible for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act shall be determined on an individual basis.

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Suspension of Transportation Services

The New Milford Board of Education has the authority to suspend transportation services of any pupil whose conduct, while awaiting or receiving transportation to or from school, endangers persons or property or constitutes a violation of a publicized Board policy. The decision to suspend a student from transportation services for improper conduct is not reviewable under Connecticut General Statutes §10-186. Suspension from school transportation will be carried out in accordance with the Board's Policy on Student Behavior on School Transportation [Policy 5131.1(a-b)]

Transportation Safety—Reporting of Complaints

The Superintendent of Schools will develop and implement procedures for reporting of all complaints relative to school transportation.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 §§10-186
 10-220
 10-220c
 10-221c
 14-275
 14-275a
 14-275b
 14-275c
 14-276a(c)

Conn. State Agencies Regs.
 §10-76d-19.

Policy adopted: June 11, 2002
 Policy revised: December 12, 2006
 Policy revised: June 10, 2008
 Policy revised: October 11, 2011
 Policy revised: December 11, 2013
 Policy reviewed: February 25, 2014
 Policy revised: June 9, 2015

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 New Milford, Connecticut