

## **BUSINESS AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATION**

# 3541.1(a)

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION**

Students will be eligible for school transportation if one or more of the following criteria is present:

1. For a student, under the age of ten (10) or enrolled in Grades K-6, the walking distance either to school or to the nearest bus stop is in excess of one (1) mile.
2. For a student, over age ten (10) or enrolled in Grades 7-12, the walking distance either to school or to the nearest bus stop is in excess of one and one-half (1 1/2) miles.
3. The walking route does not exceed the limits set forth above, but presents a hazard which the Board cannot reasonably eliminate or adequately abate as outlined in Board Policy #3541.1(a) - #3541.2(d).
4. The student possesses handicapping conditions which require special arrangements as a result of a physician's recommendation or a PPT recommendation.

The Board is not required to provide transportation for students choosing to attend charter schools or inter-district magnet schools that are located outside the Town of Litchfield.

### **Eligibility for Out-of-Town Transportation**

Any resident of the school district under twenty-one years of age who is not a high school or vocational school graduate and who is attending a State vocational school shall be eligible for transportation from central points within the district to the out-of-town vocational school.

A student who is placed by a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) or other authorized placement agency in either a public or private educational institution out of town shall be provided the necessary transportation.

### **Appeals**

Any parent, guardian, student at majority or any agent or officer whose duty it is to compel the observance of the laws concerning attendance at school may appeal any administrative decision concerning school transportation in the following manner:

1. Discuss the matter with the principal of the school to which the student is assigned.

**Appeals** - continued

2. If no resolution is reached under (1) above, discuss the matter with the Business Manager, who is the coordinator of transportation services.
3. If no resolution is reached under (2) above, discuss the matter with the Superintendent of Schools.

Any parent, guardian, student at majority or officer whose duty it is to compel the observance of attendance laws who believes that the Superintendent, or designee, is not furnishing school accommodations, by transportation or otherwise, to himself or herself or to his/her child in a manner consistent with the laws of the State of Connecticut or Board of Education policy or regulations may, in writing, request a hearing before the Board to show the Board the manner in which the Superintendent has allegedly failed to furnish such required accommodations.

The Board shall hold a hearing within ten (10) days following receipt of such request. The hearing before the Board will be in compliance with the provisions of Section 4-177 to 4-180 inclusive of the Connecticut General Statutes.

An audio recording shall be made of such hearing.

**Routes and Services**

By mid-August each year, following consultation with bus contractors/transportation supervisors, student school bus schedules and stops will be developed by the Business Manager. These schedules and stops shall be in writing, as will any adjustments made during the year, and shall be published prior to the opening of schools.

Bus drivers are not permitted to deviate from regularly scheduled stops either to pick up or discharge students, except in an emergency. Only the Superintendent of Schools or designee shall have the authority to change bus routes and/or bus stops.

All school buses have a definite approved seating capacity which cannot be exceeded. Because school buses are scheduled for maximum use of stated capacity, students must ride to and from school on buses to which they are assigned. For special circumstances and events, exceptions permitting students to ride different buses to different locations, or the same buses to different locations, from their residences will be made only upon parental request and approval of the school principal or his/her designee providing:

1. Space is available on the route.
2. Different student destinations do not alter an existing route.

**Routes and Services** – (continued)

Special events include, but are not limited to: scouts, church functions, within district, home care/child care arrangements, and other events as approved by principals.

Parents' requests for changes in bus assignments should be in writing. In emergency situations, principals may approve telephone requests from parents or guardians. Schools will maintain daily logs, with appropriate detail, of requested and approved changes to pupil bus assignments. School bus drivers will be notified in writing by the principal's office staff, of any changes in a student's normal bus schedule.

Secondary school students remaining after school hours for extra help sessions or other approved reasons may ride the elementary bus from the Litchfield Intermediate School to their home when space permits. Permission must be in writing from the administration of Litchfield High School.

It shall be the responsibility of the individual school principal to ensure that buses are not overloaded as a result of special event approvals.

Legal Reference: Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-76d Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services. Determination of eligibility for Medicaid. Development of individualized education program. Planning and placement team meetings. Public agency placements; apportionment of costs. Relationship of insurance to special education costs.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-97 Transportation to technical high schools

Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-220 Duties of boards of education

Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-220c Transportation of children over private roads. Immunity from liability

Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-273a Reimbursement for transportation to and from elementary and secondary schools

Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-280a Transportation for pupils in non-profit private schools outside school district

Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-281 Transportation for pupils in non-profit private schools within school district

Conn. Gen. Stat. §14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when. Use of mass transportation permitted, when. Use of certain motor vehicles prohibited.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §14-275b Transportation of mobility impaired students.

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**# 3541.1(d)**

Legal Reference: (continued)

Conn. Gen. Stat. §14-275c Regulations re school buses and motor vehicles used to transport students. Operators age seventy or older. Penalties.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §14-280 Display of signs and signals by school bus and student transportation vehicle. Portable signs. Penalty.

(cf 5131.1 Bus and Van Conduct)

Litchfield Board of Education

Policy Adopted: 6/21/1983

Policy Reviewed: 10/1/1998

Policy Revised: 7/9/1996, 12/9/2009, 12/16/2015, 12/21/2016