

**SAFETY - HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS**

Every reasonable effort will be made to transport all pupils who live more than one mile from school or from the nearest bus stop. Students will also be transported when a hazardous condition that cannot be eliminated exists.

**I. Definitions:**

- A. "School Transportation" means the procedure, program or fully effective and implemented plan by which students are conveyed to and/or from school from their residence or 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.
- B. "Walking Distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student's residence and school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the student'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 the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus stop or vehicle embarkation point established by the Board of Education or school administration.
- C. "One mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280 feet, but not more than 5,380 feet.
- D. "Grade K" means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning student under age six.
- E. "Hazard" means a thing or condition, as prescribed in these guidelines, affecting the safety of students walking to and from school or the bus stop.
- F. "Raised walk area or sidewalk" means a portion of the landscaped right of way at least three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area, or fencing; apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
- G. "Student" means any individual enrolled in Grades K-12 in a public or nonprofit private school located within the school district.

II. Hazardous Conditions - **Students Under Age Ten (10) or Enrolled in Grades K-6**

- A. Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of one (1) mile shall be considered hazardous.
- B. 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 exist:
  - 1. A student is required to cross in the absence of a pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and at street crossings where there are no stop signs or crossing guards and the traffic count during the time that pupils are walking to or from school or the bus stop exceeds sixty (60) vehicles per hour at the intersection.
  - 2. A student is required to use a sidewalk along any street, road or highway with speed limits in excess of forty (40) miles per hour which does not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where student must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop.
  - 3. The usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open manholes, construction, snow plowed or piled on the walk area making walkways unusable, 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 is hazardous or attractive to children.
- C. A street or road **not having** sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist:
  - 1. A student is required to walk along any street, road or highway possessing a traffic count of sixty (60) or more vehicles per hour at the time that students are walking to or from school or the bus stop.
  - 2. The presence of man-made hazards including attractive nuisances, as stated in number three (3) above.
  - 3. A student is required to walk along any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of twenty-two (22) feet.
  - 4. A student is required to walk along any roadway available to vehicles when, plowed free of snow accumulations, does not have a minimum width of twenty (20) feet.

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5. A student is required to walk along any street, road or highway possessing a speed limit in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour.
  6. A student is required to walk along any street, road or highway where the line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Drivers Manual or Department of Transportation, Division of Design.
- D. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, water-way or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the student and the water.
- E. Any area adjacent to a roadway, walkway, sidewalk, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes with no fence or other suitable barrier shall be deemed hazardous.
- F. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk or path designated as a walking route for school students which 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 students ordinarily walk to or from school or the bus stop shall be deemed hazardous.
- G. 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.
- III. Hazardous Conditions - **Students Over Age Ten (10) or Enrolled in Grades 7-12**
- A. Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of one and one-half (1 1/2) miles shall be considered hazardous.
- B. 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 exist:
1. A student is required to cross in the absence of a traffic light, stop signs or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect and has a traffic count which exceeds ninety (90) vehicles per hour during the time that pupils are walking to or from school or the bus stop.
  2. A student is required to use a sidewalk along any street, road or highway with speed limits in excess of forty (40) miles per hour which does not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where students must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop.

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3. The usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open manholes, construction, snow plowed or piled on the walk area making walkways unusable, 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 is hazardous or attractive to children.
- C. A street or road **not having** sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exist:
1. The presence of man-made hazards including attractive nuisances, as stated in number three (3) above.
  2. A student is required to walk along any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of twenty-two (22) feet.
  3. A student is required to walk along any roadway available to vehicles when, plowed free of snow accumulations, does not have a minimum width of twenty (20) feet.
  4. A student is required to walk along any street, road or highway where the line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Drivers Manual or Department of Transportation, Division of Design.
- D. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk or path designated as a walking route for school students which 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 students ordinarily walk to or from school or the bus stop shall be deemed hazardous.
- IV. Students possessing physical handicaps and/or health conditions rendering them unable to walk to either the bus stop or school or to board a bus shall receive appropriate transportation upon receipt of written notification by the physician.
- V. Students with special needs will receive transportation services as deemed appropriate by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT).
- VI. The Board of Education may grant an exception to any provision of these guidelines wherein a peculiar condition or combination of conditions renders such condition(s) a hazard based upon reasonable judgment.

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Litchfield Board of Education

Policy Adopted: November 28, 1978

Policy Revised: July 9, 1996

Policy Reviewed: October 1, 1998

Policy Revised: December 9, 2009