

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

- I. The District shall provide the following student transportation services to students at the elementary school level:
- A. Any elementary students who live more than four miles from their assigned schools shall be provided transportation services to such schools. There shall be no charge for such services.
 - B. No transportation services shall be provided by the District for students living within four miles of their assigned elementary schools. However, the parents of students living less than four miles, but more than one mile of their assigned elementary schools may, at their expense, seek to contract for such services with the District's contracted transportation service provider or any other transportation provider.
 - C. Any student who, in his/her walks to school, encounters at least three of the following five circumstances shall be provided transportation services:
 - 1. The student must cross a road with a speed limit of 45 mph or greater.
 - 2. The student must, due to lack of sidewalks, walk in a nonresidential street (or the unimproved area immediately adjacent thereto).
 - 3. The student must cross a four-lane (or more) state or federal highway or interstate highway.
 - 4. The student must cross one or more non-residential intersections that (a) do not have pedestrian crossing signs, markings, or signals, or (b) do not have sufficient visual range for safe pedestrian crossing.
 - 5. The student must traverse consistently high-volume roadways where temporary road conditions present limited walking space.

Approved: February 2, 2009

Reviewed: July 2, 2012

Revised: January 7, 2013

- II. The District shall provide the following student transportation services to students at the secondary level:

- A. The District shall provide transportation services free of charge to any student who lives more than four miles from his/her assigned school. However, the District may, at its sole discretion, elect to provide mileage reimbursement to any or all such qualifying students in lieu of transportation. The mileage reimbursement rate for such shall be as prescribed by state law.
 - B. No transportation services shall be provided by the District for students living within four miles of their assigned high schools, however, the parents of such students may, at their expense, seek to contract for such services with the District's contracted transportation service provider or any other transportation provider.
- III. Unless otherwise required by law, the District shall not provide transportation services to in-district transfer students (i.e., those students who, at their request, are permitted to attend a school other than the school to which they would have been assigned based upon the location of their residence).
- IV. Transportation fees assessed by Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (*or extenuating circumstances*) upon request.

If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

If the request for a fee reduction is denied, the Director of Transportation will mail a copy of his or her decision to the requesting parents or guardians within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the request. The denial notice will also include a statement informing the parents that they may reapply for a waiver any time during the school year, if circumstances change. The decision of the Director of Transportation is final.

Regulations to Policy 801.01 will be communicated in writing to the parents or guardians of all students enrolled in the District at the start of each school year and to the parents or guardians of all students enrolling in the District for the first time.

The transportation fee reduction status from one school term does not apply to fee reduction status for the next school year. A new application must be completed no later than September 1 of each school year in order to establish transportation fee reduction eligibility for the school term.

The superintendent of schools is responsible for the development of a request to reduce transportation fees form.