

Medway Public Schools
Medway, MA

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY

Policy #24

Student Transportation Policy

General Policy

School bus transportation will be provided in accordance with state and federal law and all applicable regulations. Unless a student is eligible for transportation provided by the Medway Public Schools, the transportation of a student to and from the student's school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of the student.

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to see that the student gets to his/her assigned bus stop. The behavior and/or actions of the student while at a designated bus stop are subject to the parent/guardian's supervision and will not be the responsibility of the school department.

The school district will contract for transportation services. The school committee will award contracts on a competitive bid basis. Bus contractors and taxi contractors, who will be held responsible for the safe operation of school buses, will comply with all applicable state laws and regulations, including but not limited to:

1. Specifications for school bus design and equipment
2. Inspection of buses
3. Qualifications and examinations of bus drivers
4. Driving regulations
5. Small vehicle requirements, if applicable
6. Insurance coverage
7. Adherence to local regulations and directives as specified in bid contracts

The director of finance and operations, working with the bus contractor and other appropriate administrators, will be responsible for establishing bus schedules, routes, stops, and all other matters relative to the transportation program.

Busing Eligibility

Students in grades K-4 who live **more than one mile** from the school they are required to attend shall be eligible for school bus transportation to and from school and home.

Students in grades 5-8 who live **more than one and one-half miles** from the middle school shall be eligible for school bus transportation to and from school and home.

Students in grades 9-12 who live **more than one and one-half miles** from the high school shall be eligible for school bus transportation to and from school and home.

Virtually all kindergarten students shall be eligible for school bus transportation to and from school and home, with the understanding that there will be no extra cost to the district and that a continuation will be voted on each year.

If a student's individual education plan (IEP) specifies he/she is eligible for specialized transportation between his/her home and the location of his/her required school, such transportation shall be provided by the district at no cost to the parent.

In the event the parent/guardian elects to send the student to a school other than what is designated in the student's individual education plan, the parent/guardian will be responsible for the daily transportation of the student with no reimbursement by the district for the cost of same. If the parent/guardian elects to have the district arrange the daily transportation, the parent/guardian will be required to pay the cost of that transportation.

School Bus Safety

A school bus safety program shall be conducted by the town's safety officer in conjunction with the bus contractor.

There shall be no standees allowed on the school buses, except in rare instances when the situation demands and it is approved.

Cases of misconduct by any student while on a school bus will be reported to the principal of his/her school and may result in loss of transportation privileges.

Other

This policy shall become a permanent part of the student handbook at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

First Reading: **January 21, 2016**

Adopted: **February 4, 2016**