

# NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School Board Policy

**3800(a)**

Reference: Administrative Regulation # 3801 & 3802

### **BUSINESS AND NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS**

#### **Auxiliary Agencies**

#### **Student Transportation**

##### **General Provisions**

The school district will provide transportation services to students according to the terms of the school laws of Pennsylvania and the provisions of this policy. Consideration of safety and efficiency are primary responsibilities in the planning and operation of the student transportation system.

##### **Responsibilities and Duties of School Bus Drivers**

The driver of a school bus shares, with school administrators, the responsibility for safely transporting students to and from their schools. The driver's judgment, attentiveness, and reliability are vital to the success of the transportation program.

The specific duties of bus drivers are defined by the coordinator of transportation. Orientation to these duties and the safe operation of the bus are to be provided for each new driver and, on an annual refresher basis, for experienced drivers.

##### **Regular Routes and Services**

Resident students attending the district schools will be provided free transportation on established routes provided that:

1. They are elementary school students living at least one and one-half miles by the nearest roads from their assigned school, or
2. They are secondary school students living at least two miles by the nearest roads from their assigned school, or
3. They are students living closer to school than the above limits but whose routes to school, if they were to walk, would be unduly hazardous in the judgment of the coordinator of transportation. in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Bus schedules shall be designed to keep hazards and mileage to a minimum. In the event of doubt, primary grade children will be given first consideration when establishing bus stops.

##### **Special Transportation for Exceptional Children**

Children who are eligible for special education services may be provided transportation service regardless of the usual limitations on distance. This service is dependent upon the severity of the student's disability as determined by the IEP team. In such cases, an alternate means of transportation may be provided. The manager of special education will approve plans for alternative transportation and enact these plans through the coordinator of transportation.

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Likewise, transportation service for special needs students who attend alternative placements outside the district are established by the director of student services in collaboration with the coordinator of transportation.

Plans developed for special transportation services contracted with private or commercial carriers will be forwarded to the superintendent for presentation to the board.

### **Special Transportation for Nonpublic School Students**

The school district shall provide transportation for nonpublic school students as defined in Act 372 of the School Laws of Pennsylvania. As an additional service, the school district will provide transportation for its nonpublic school students to daycare centers within the North Penn school boundaries using the same guidelines established for our public school students. The details of daycare transportation service for nonpublic students are found in Administrative Regulation 3802.

### **Procedures for Emergencies and Safety on School Buses**

Drivers and students are required to participate in bus evacuation drills twice each year to assure orderly and safe conduct in the event of an emergency involving a bus. The coordinator of transportation is responsible for scheduling and carrying out evacuation drills for all bus students. Procedures for such drills are to be developed by the coordinator of transportation following the guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Instruction for dealing with other emergencies such as fire, accident, or serious illness of the driver are to be a part of every driver's orientation and are to be included in the packet of instructions carried on each bus.

Bus safety involves the maintenance of safe equipment, the safe operation of that equipment, the safe conduct of students on the buses, and the safe loading and unloading of the buses. Every effort is to be made to assure bus safety within the reasonable limits of prudent management.

#### Policy:

Adopted: September 17, 1970

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Amended: December 11, 2008