

CHAPTER 9.00 - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

9.03* - Bus Routes

POLICY:

(1) Designation of Bus Routes

After considering the recommendations of the Superintendent, the Board will designate the route to be traveled regularly by each school bus, and each such route shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Each route shall be planned and adjusted to the capacity of the bus and insofar as practicable, the normal capacity of each bus shall be used, without standees, to serve pupils whose homes are beyond a reasonable walking distance from the school center to which they are assigned except as otherwise provided by law and regulations.
- (b) Each route shall regularly serve pupils whose homes are beyond a reasonable walking distance to the nearest appropriate school.
- (c) Any route served by a school bus designated by the Board shall be restricted to those areas where road conditions, the capacity of bridges, and the number of pupils to be served make such service economically feasible and practicable.
- (d) A route shall not be extended for the purpose of accommodating pupils whose homes are within a reasonable walking distance of a shorter or more economical route which is available to service the pupils.
- (e) School bus routes will, insofar as possible, be restricted to main trunk lines and to all weather roads, to areas where the number of pupils to be served make the service practicable and economically feasible, and to require the minimum time within the desired limits for any pupil in travel time to and from school. An all weather road is defined as follows:
 - 1. A road which is free from safety hazards and passable under all weather conditions and maintained in a manner adequate for bus use;
 - 2. A road of sufficient width so that tree limbs, bushes, and similar hazards will not exist;
 - 3. There shall be at least 12 feet of overhead clearance from ground level; and
 - 4. The road shall be free of obstructions and shall have no bridge which is inadequate to support the capacity of the bus

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when loaded.

5. Travel Time on Bus

In planning and establishing bus routes, travel each morning and afternoon should not require more than 50 minutes for an elementary pupil or more than one hour for a junior or senior high school pupil, except that in unusual circumstances an exception will be allowed by the Board.

- (f) On any route where it is necessary for the bus to turn around, a suitable turning area shall be available.
- (g) Only one bus shall be assigned pupils on any given route unless the school schedules make a dual assignment of buses necessary.
- (h) Pupil Stops

As a general rule, pupil loading and unloading stops shall not be established less than two tenths of a mile (1,056 feet) apart. The Coordinator of Transportation is responsible for implementing this rule and shall add, eliminate or change bus stops as necessary during the year to provide the most reasonably safe locations available, such revisions to be reported immediately to the Superintendent.

- (i) During inclement weather, buses shall run their normal morning routes. In the afternoon, students shall be delivered as close as possible to their homes considering road conditions and suitable turning areas.

(2) Spur Routes

A spur route from the main trunk route will be considered only when the following conditions are present:

- (a) The spur route must be in excess of one-half mile from the trunk route.
- (b) The road must be an all weather road with satisfactory turn around area.

(3) Changes of Routes

A request for a change in a bus route should be made to the Coordinator of Transportation. When data has been collected, the complete information and a recommendation from the Coordinator of Transportation shall be given to the Superintendent for his/her recommendation to the Board.

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A deviation in a school bus route may be made by the Coordinator of Transportation for good cause provided the change is submitted to the Board for approval at its next regular meeting.

(4) Non-Transportation Zones

After considering the recommendations of the Superintendent, the Board will designate, by map or otherwise, non-transportation zones which shall be composed of areas in the district from which it is unnecessary or impracticable to provide transportation services. Non-transportation zones will be designated annually prior to the opening of school and prior to the designation of bus routes for the ensuing school year.

(5) Cooperation With Other School Districts

(a) Where it is practical to extend a school bus route to serve the territory located in another school district, the Board will enter into an agreement with the Board of the other school district to provide transportation services to pupils residing in the adjacent school district. Any such agreement shall be recorded in the official Board minutes of each district. The agreement shall state in detail the responsibility of each Board for the operation of the school bus and the maintenance of the daily schedule.

(b) Whenever a school bus crosses a district line, all rules and regulations of the School Board of Levy County shall apply to pupils transported by the said Board unless otherwise stated in the agreement between the districts.

(6) Where circumstances of an emergency nature temporarily necessitate the transportation of pupils while standing, the school bus shall proceed at such a reduced rate of speed as may be required to maximize the safety of pupils, taking into consideration existing traffic and road conditions. The Coordinator of Transportation shall notify the Superintendent immediately as to the emergency condition and such action as may be required will be taken by the Board to correct the condition.

(a) Under no conditions shall pupils be permitted to stand in a number to exceed one pupil per hand-hold excluding the two rear hand-holds. (1006.22 (12))

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41 (2), 1001.42 (17), F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: 1006.21 (8) (12), F.S.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE: 6A-3.017(1)(d)

HISTORY:
Adopted: 06/17/97
Revision Date(s): 11/17/98, 12/03/02
Formerly: