

## **8600 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION**

The Board of Education shall transport eligible pupils to and from school and school related activities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1 et seq., and Board policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public and nonpublic school pupils, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

Nonpublic school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident pupils in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1 et seq.

Charter or renaissance school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident pupils in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-3.1 et seq.

Transportation may be provided for pupils who would otherwise travel to school along hazardous routes. Routes shall be designated as hazardous by the Town of Westfield, and the cost of transportation of students along designated hazardous routes is to be borne by the Town of Westfield, in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the Board of Education and the Town pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.2.

At the discretion of the Board and in accordance with applicable NJ law and regulations, transportation may be provided as an incentive to encourage voluntary redistricting in order to relieve overcrowding at one or more schools within the district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; 18A:39-1 et seq.; 18A:39-11.1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 27:15-16

N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.; 39:3B-2.1; 39:3B-10; 39:3B-27

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 et seq.; 6A:27-2.1 et seq.;

6A:27-3.1 et seq.; 6A:27-4.1 et seq.; 6A:27-5.1;

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## **R 8600 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION**

### General Requirements - Pupils Remote From School

- A. The Board will transport:
1. Pupils who reside remote, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.4(a)1. and (a)2., from their assigned district school of attendance;
  2. Nonpublic school pupils who reside remote from their school of attendance and meet the eligibility criteria of N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1 et seq.;
  3. Charter school or renaissance school pupils pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-3.1 et seq.;
  4. Pupils with special needs shall be provided transportation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1;
  5. School choice pupils pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-4.1 et seq.; and
  6. Special population pupils pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-6.2 through 6.5.

### Cooperative/Coordinated Transportation Services

- A. The Board shall utilize cooperative/coordinated transportation services in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C 6A:27-10.1 et seq.

### School Bus Use and Standards

- A. All school buses bid or purchased shall be equipped in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-10 – School Bus Safety Equipment.
- B. School bus drivers and all school bus passengers shall be required to wear seat belts when transported in school buses so equipped. Seat belts shall be fastened when the driver and passengers board the vehicle and they shall be kept fastened at all times while on board the vehicle. Seat belts may be unfastened only when the individual is departing the vehicle. The Board further requires that drivers and passengers using private vehicles to transport pupils wear seat belts in the same manner.

**OPERATIONS**  
**R 8600**  
**Pupil Transportation**

Page 2 of 3

- C. There shall be displayed on every bus subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1, signs or legends which will, insofar as practicable, inform the driver of any vehicle concerning the duty imposed upon him/her by law with respect to passing a bus, while it is loading or unloading. The signs or legends shall be in a color, form, and design as will meet the requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education.

An agency, Board of Education, nonpublic school, or school bus contractor operating a school bus subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 shall display across the rear of the school bus a telephone number, website address, or other identifying information which shall allow the public to report a bus driver's misconduct while operating the school bus to the Board of Education or nonpublic school for which the school bus provides transportation. The lettering shall be of a color that contrasts with the color of the school bus.

The Board of Education or nonpublic school shall comply with New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) regulations regarding: the appropriate Board of Education or nonpublic school official or designee to address and respond to a complaint of school bus driver misconduct; the appropriate actions which a Board of Education or nonpublic school may take to respond to a complaint of school bus driver misconduct; and the time period during which a Board of Education or nonpublic school may act to respond to a complaint of school bus driver misconduct in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3B-2.1.

- D. The Board requires every school bus bid or purchased that is used to transport public, non-public, charter, and/or renaissance school pupils will be equipped with a crossing control arm at the right front corner of the bus. The arm must open and extend out from the bus at least five feet each time the bus door is opened.
- E. School bus purchase, use, and standards must meet Federal and State standards and must be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. – Public School Contracts Law.

Operation and Management of Transportation System

- A. The School Business Administrator shall
1. Prepare a map of the district on which each bus stop and bus route is indicated or, alternatively, prepare an itinerary of bus routes that may be used in conjunction with a map of the school district;
  2. Prepare and promulgate procedures to be followed in the event of a bus emergency, bus safety, bus driver training and rules governing the conduct of all pupils transported by the Board in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 et seq. and 6A:27-12.1 et seq.;

**OPERATIONS**  
**R 8600**  
**Pupil Transportation**

Page 3 of 3

3. Maintain such records and make such reports regarding school transportation as are required by the State Board of Education; and
  4. Prepare the specifications for each bus route or contract for which proposals will be sought by the Board in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.1 et seq.
- B. The operation and fiscal management of the district's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and the NJDOE.

In Effect: November 12, 2019