

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The major purpose of school transportation is to get students who live an unreasonable walking distance from school to school and back in an efficient, safe, and economical manner. Other purposes include the provision of transportation for academic field trips in direct support of the curriculum and transportation for support of the co-curricular program (athletics, music, drama, and the like).

District-owned buses will be provided by the board for the transport of students to and from school. However, as it is impractical to transport certain special education students by regular bus, they may be transported by other conveyance. The transportation director, working in conjunction with school principals and under the supervision of the superintendent, will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school transportation system and for the scheduling and routing of all buses, bus stops, and all regulations of the program.

Vehicles owned by the board will be operated by authorized school employees or officials who are properly licensed. These employees and officials must meet all state requirements for licensing.

Management of the school transportation program will meet the following criteria:

1. **Adequacy:** The program provides both necessary and sufficient transportation to and from school and for all other school programs.
2. **Safety:** The scheduling and operating of the program takes into consideration hazards, potential dangers to students, and all appropriate safeguards.
3. **Economy:** The program is operated in the most efficient manner possible after considering the constraints imposed by the criteria of adequacy and safety.
4. **Evaluation:** The school transportation program will be monitored by the principals and the transportation director or their designees daily and subjected to periodic evaluations by them as necessary.

Transportation may be provided to and from school for elementary school children (grades K-8) who live within the two and one-half mile radius of the school. Bus service will be provided for students within these boundaries if the board determines it is economically efficient and is justifiable in terms of student safety.

Students who reside more than two and one-half miles from the school of assignment and who do not have access to the bus service furnished by the district will be entitled to transportation or board and room allowance in accordance with state law.

The transportation of students with special needs will be in accordance with the specifications of their educational plans and will be arranged by the transportation director and the director of exceptional education.

Exceptions to the established areas may be made by the board for the following reasons:

1. where, in the judgment of the board, walking conditions to the student's school are extremely hazardous; and/or
2. where because of overcrowding and the necessity to assign students to another building, the board deems transportation necessary.

If transportation is required for the child to benefit from the special education program, transportation shall be written in the individual educational program and provided at no cost to the parent. The District may not require that a parent provide transportation; however, if both parties agree that the parent will provide the transportation, it shall be noted on the individual educational program and the parent shall be reimbursed by the district in accordance with state law.

Although the regular transportation of students to and from school will always be given first priority, school buses may also be used to take students to and from school-sponsored activities.

Driving regulations, safety rules, and insurance coverage will be the same for special uses as for regular student transportation to and from school. Regular bus drivers will, whenever possible, be given priority assignments.

The transportation director will work with the appropriate school administrators to establish regulations governing transportation for special district programs.

LEGAL REFS.: SDCL 13-29-12 through 13-29-18
13-30-1 through 13-30-4
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ARSD 24:05:27:07

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