STUDENT TRANSPORTATION POLICY

The school committees of these two districts will send representatives to a Joint Transportation Committee, which will be responsible for contracting for transportation services, and examining and making recommendations relative to transportation. Management of transportation services will be handled through the office of the superintendent by the Director of Transportation. The above listed school districts have the responsibility to provide eligible K-12 students with safe and efficient transportation. Parents have the responsibility to help students get to bus stops.

1. Routing and Location of Bus Stops
   
   Bus routes will be established with consideration given to the concentration of students, the road conditions, location of schools, safety and economy of operation, and so that students are transported in the most efficient manner. Elementary students will ride the bus no longer than one hour. High school students will ride no longer than 1-1/4 hours. Within these parameters, each district has the right to establish ‘not to exceed’ time on bus as long as any changes do not adversely impact the other two districts without prior approval from the affected district(s). All bus routes will follow public roads.

   The Districts will comply with all applicable state laws for minimal standards of service. Students living more than one and one-half miles from a schoolhouse, as measured by commonly traveled roads, will be provided service. The districts have the right to establish bus stops up to 1 mile from a student's residence.

   In some cases, parents may be contracted with to provide transportation.

   Students will ride their assigned bus unless they provide parental/guardian permission slips to the school office to ride a different bus. They may only ride another bus when space is available. Students may not stand on the bus.

2. Due Process

   Parents/guardians/students dissatisfied with transportation service may appeal to the Director of Transportation. If still dissatisfied, parents/guardians/students may appeal to the Superintendent of Schools. Finally, if the concern stems from school district policy, further appeal may be made to the appropriate school district Transportation Subcommittee. Or, if the concern stems from the two-district policy, further appeal may be made to the Two-District Transportation Subcommittee.

3. Student Conduct See regulations for safety and student conduct

   Parents and students will sign an annual agreement regarding rules for bus riding, which will be kept on file in the schools. The text of this agreement also will be provided in the student handbook.
4. Special Needs Transportation
   Children with special needs will be transported on separate vehicles in accordance with their Individualized Education Plan when special transportation requirements are specified in the IEP.

5. Service on major highways
   When embarking or disembarking from a bus on a state highway or other heavily traveled road, elementary students will be not required to cross the road.

6. Time of Arrival
   Bus transportation will be arranged so that students arrive in time for school. Each district has the right to establish time of arrivals and/or start times of school as long as any changes do not adversely impact the other district without prior approval from the affected district. However, supervision is not provided for students until fifteen minutes before the start of school. Elementary students should not arrive earlier than fifteen minutes before the start of school unless enrolled in a before school program.

7. Transportation of students off campus
   Students participating in off campus curricular and extracurricular activities under the direction and supervision of school personnel shall be transported to and from such activities by vehicles operating under contract with school committees or by volunteers.

8. Transportation of Choice Students
   Each school committee will be responsible for formulating and administering its policy regarding access of transportation to choice students. Consideration will be given with the following provisions:
   (a) there must be sufficient room;
   (b) it will not cause a bus to deviate from its existing route;
   (c) it does not result in additional cost to the district.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:7A
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Revised: April 10, 2002 – Mohawk
         August 13, 2002 – Rowe
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