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LAST REVIEWED:

TRANSPORTATION

School bus transportation to and from school is a privilege offered to all PK-8 students. It is the expectation that all students will ride the bus to and from school or be transported by private vehicle. Middle school students, who wish to walk or ride a bicycle, need written parental permission to do so.

All bus routes shall be determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee, in collaboration with the contracted bus company, based upon:

- Safety of the students.
- Efficiency of operation

Bus pick up and drop off points shall be within the District unless no extra mileage or time is required to add an additional stop in Barre Town.

Transportation of students with disabilities shall be provided in accordance with the Law.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten children will be released from the bus at the end of the day only if a designated, responsible adult is present at the bus door.

A bus schedule will be published in the local newspaper, on the school's website, and in the parent newsletter during the month of August prior to the start of the school year.

The District shall provide school or commercial transportation:

- To and from the school facility for field trips and special activities sponsored and approved by the principal;
- That conforms to the Law and all associated rules, regulations, and procedures as established by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Parents and/or guardians may ride on a school bus to or from school during the school day on a regularly scheduled school bus when:

- They have a previously scheduled appointment with a member of the school staff;
- They are involved in a school activity or function;
- The principal or his/her designee determines that there is adult space on the bus, and a prior appointment has been made.

Student supervision and conduct on school buses:

- Where bus stops are not located on school grounds, the District is not responsible for the supervision of students. The District is responsible only while students are actually on a bus.
- Buses carrying students shall be considered as extensions of the District as prescribed by the Law. The safety of students on school buses is a responsibility which the students and their parents share with bus drivers and the District. Any student whose conduct on a bus is improper or jeopardizes the safety of other students may have the privilege of transportation suspended.
- The bus driver has the authority and is responsible for, maintaining orderly and safe behavior of students while on the bus and will report misconduct to the appropriate principal or designee.
- The bus driver may not remove a student from the bus for disciplinary reasons.
- The principal or his/her designee has the authority to suspend riding privileges of students who present disciplinary problems on the bus.
- Parents of children who violate bus rules shall be notified of a potential or actual loss of riding privileges or other consequence.
- At least annually, the principal or his/her designee shall review and explain bus rules with the students.

A detailed description of student conduct on buses and disciplinary procedures regarding student behavior and the consequences of misbehavior can be found in the Parent/Student Handbook.

At least once every school year, the superintendent or his/her designee shall provide the Board with a comprehensive assessment of the efficacy of the transportation policy and shall address the following:

- Consideration of student safety factors (e.g. sidewalks, automobile traffic, walking routes, etc.)

- Numbers of children at a designated bus stop, walking to school, or being transported by other means.
- Numbers of students with disabilities being transported by bus.
- Location of bus stops and length of route times.