

The District will meet its legal obligations to provide mandated student transportation services to public school students and private school students using the method(s) that the District deems most appropriate to the particular circumstances. To the extent consistent with applicable law and Board policy, the District may provide student transportation services by contracting with third-party entities, or by using District employees, contracts with parents, or other lawful methods.

In addition to providing legally-mandated student transportation, the District shall also provide student transportation services in other situations where permitted by state law and where such transportation has been appropriately authorized. To the extent permitted by law, the District may charge fees related to such additional transportation.

The Director of Finance and Operations shall direct and manage the transportation services the District provides to public and private school students and coordinate such services among relevant parties in the interest of the students' safety and welfare.

At this time, the District neither owns nor leases any school busses, and no District employee operates a school bus as part of his/her regular duties. Accordingly, all student transportation via school bus involves a contracted service provider. The following provisions concern contracted service providers (not including individual parent contracts) that provide student transportation services for the District:

1. For daily student transportation to and from school using school busses, the District will contract with a service provider.
2. Each contract shall require the service provider to ensure that the drivers and vehicles used for student transportation meet the requirements established under state or federal law, Board policy, or the contract itself. Such requirements shall include but are not limited to ensuring proper licensure, verifying all aspects of operator eligibility, providing operator training, maintaining appropriate insurance, conducting vehicle inspections, and monitoring vehicle operation.

3. The contracted provider shall initially determine and schedule regular bus routes and bus stops, taking into account factors such as the number and location of children, the safety of students, and the cost efficiency of the route. Changes to routes and schedules may be required during the school year, and the contracted provider shall provide advance notification of changes to affected families.

In connection with formulating routes and schedules, the contracted provider may designate pick-up/drop-off points along a proposed route that require one or more students to walk to the bus stop. Absent extenuating circumstances, the contractor shall not create routes and stops that would require a 4K or kindergarten student to walk more than .25 miles from his/her property line or a 1st - 12th grade student to walk more than .55 miles from his/her property line of their place of residence to the bus stop.

4. A contracted provider (via the contracted party, the contractor's driver, and/or any other employee of the contractor who may be assigned to provide services under the contract) shall have responsibility to supervise the students who are being transported and shall have the authority to enforce rules and directives and to monitor and appropriately respond to student conduct, except that the contractor is not delegated final authority to suspend or revoke a student's ability to receive/use District-provided transportation services. Further, nothing in this paragraph prevents the District from choosing to exercise concurrent supervisory authority through its officers or employees in any situation.
5. If a student or parent or guardian has a concern about a third-party contractor or any other individual involved in the provision of student transportation services who is not a District employee, the student/parent/guardian is expected to contact the contractor first to attempt to resolve the concern. If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved, the student/parent/guardian shall notify and work with the building principal to resolve the concern with the third-party contractor or individual. If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved, the student/parent/guardian shall notify and work with the Director of Finance and Operations to resolve the concern with the third-party contractor or individual.

Parent Requests for Pick Up and Drop Off

Long-term changes in bus pick-up or drop-off points may be made to accommodate special circumstances (such as a change in childcare location). Such requests must be communicated by the parent/guardian and approved by the contracted bus company. Such approval will only be granted if it can be accommodated with the current routes and if space is available on affected buses. A request for a short-term change on a certain date in pick-up or drop-off points must be submitted before the event and will not be in effect unless approved. The building principal will try to accommodate requests that arise because of genuine emergencies. Each of these requests will be managed on an individual basis. Such requests would, by nature, be singular and non-repeating. Parents/guardians should also contact the contracted bus company to notify them of the change.

Student Conduct

To the fullest extent that state law considers a student who is utilizing the District's transportation services to be (1) at school; (2) under the supervision of a school authority; or (3) otherwise subject to the District's disciplinary jurisdiction or oversight or control, the student must abide by all applicable policies, procedures, rules, and directives that govern student conduct. Rules and directives may be established and enforced that are specific to the context of transportation and/or transportation-related safety. Students using transportation services are subject to appropriate discipline or other consequences or interventions related to their conduct, up to and including loss of transportation services, suspension or expulsion from school.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Section 115.76	[students with disabilities; definitions]
Section 118.15(2)(d)	[technical college attendance for children at risk of not graduating from high school; transportation requirement]
Section 118.51(14)	[full-time public school open enrollment; transportation provisions]
Subchapter IV of Chapter 121	[student transportation and transportation aid]
Section 340.01(56)	[state law definition of school bus]

[Section 345.05](#)

[municipal liability for motor vehicle accidents]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

[PLZ](#)

[unusually hazardous areas; parent contracts]

[TRANS 300](#)

[state rules governing the transportation of school children, including driver and passenger requirements]

Federal Law

[Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)

[programs/services for handicapped students]

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

[programs/services for students with disabilities]

[McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)

[equal access for homeless students; includes

transportation provisions]

[Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991](#)

[alcohol and controlled substances use and testing requirements for individuals holding commercial drivers' licenses]

Adopted: 03/26/90

Amended: 12/17/12

10/18/21