

Board Policy 8100

POLICY TITLE: Transportation

[REQUIRED POLICY: A law or administrative rule requires districts to have a policy on at least one of the topics addressed here.]

The Board of Trustees' primary concern in providing transportation services to students is the safety and protection of students' health.

Requirements

The District shall provide transportation to and from school for a student who:

1. Resides at least 1½ miles from the nearest appropriate school, determined by the nearest and best route from the junction of the driveway of the student's home¹ and the nearest public road to the nearest door of the school the student attends or to a transportation bus stop, whichever the case may be;
2. Is a student with a disability whose IEP identifies transportation as a related service; or
3. In the judgment of the Board, has another compelling and legally sufficient reason to receive transportation services, including the age, health, or safety of the student.

The type of transportation provided by the District may be by a school bus or other vehicle, as described in Policy 8103, or by such individual transportation as paying the parent/~~or~~ guardian for individually transporting the student. The Board may pay board and room reimbursements to a parent/guardian when a student resides within a non-transportation area (an area of a school district designated by the Board as impractical, by reason of scarcity of students, remoteness, or condition of roads) but is otherwise eligible for transportation and cannot be transported in any authorized manner. The Board may authorize children attending nonpublic schools to ride a school bus provided that space is available and a fee to cover the per-seat cost for such transportation is collected. Students attending nonpublic schools may be authorized to ride another authorized vehicle if they meet the requirements described in Policy 8103 and the requirements to ride a school bus.

Homeless Students

Homeless students shall be transported in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and State law.

Foster Children

The Superintendent or designee shall implement the requirements for ensuring educational stability for all children in foster care. Each of these provisions must emphasize the child's best interest determination. A written guideline must provide clarity to each school and staff member governing the transportation protocol for students in foster care. This includes the facilitation of transportation to the school of origin (when in the student's best interest). Transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of time in foster care. These procedures must ensure the following:

1. Children in foster care who need transportation to their school of origin will receive that transportation promptly and in a reasonable and cost effective manner; and;
2. If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the District will provide transportation to the school of origin if:
 - A. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the District for the cost of this transportation;
 - B. The District agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or
 - C. The District and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of this transportation.

Safety

The District shall provide each new school bus driver with a school bus driver training program before allowing them to drive a bus carrying students. The District shall provide all experienced school bus drivers with at least ten hours of refresher school bus driver training each fiscal year. This training shall meet the requirements described in the *Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations*. Previous documented training similar to that required by the District may be used to comply with new school bus driver training hours, unless the driver has a gap of more than four years in their previous driving experience.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills on school buses and other vehicles used to transport students, and for student conduct while riding on such buses and other vehicles buses, including for students with special needs.

The District shall ensure that transportation personnel have access to a library of resources to assist them in operating safe and efficient transportation services. These resources shall include:

1. Applicable federal, State, and local laws, codes, and regulations;
2. Applicable manuals and guidelines;
3. Online access to internet and other resources; and
4. Applicable trade journals and organizations' publications.

The District shall include student transportation operations in District disaster and emergency preparedness plans and shall ensure school bus drivers who transport students are provided with training on the disaster and emergency preparedness plans.
