



TRANSPORTATION

Statement of Policy

The Board of Education will provide transportation for students under provisions of state law and regulations. In determining the provision of transportation, the superintendent of schools shall consider the guidelines contained in this policy and shall administer the operation so as to:

1. provide for the safety of students, including consideration of hazardous conditions whether or not described in this policy;
2. provide for appropriate supervision for students while on school transportation, consistent with the Board's student discipline policy; and
3. assist disabled students by providing appropriate specialized transportation when required by law.

Definitions

1. "School transportation" means the procedure, program, or implemented plan by which a pupil is transported to and/or from school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads approved pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
2. "Walking distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the pupil's residence and his/her school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil's residence to a point at the entrance of the school, or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school building entrance or the bus pick-up area, or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus or vehicle embarkation point established by the Torrington Board of Education.

3. "One mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280 feet, but not more than 5,380 feet.
4. "Grade K" means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning pupil.
5. "Hazard" means a thing or condition, as prescribed in this policy under "Hazardous Conditions" that affects the safety of pupils walking to and from school and/or a designated bus pick-up area.
6. "Sidewalk" means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
7. "Raised walk area" means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any painted safety markings along the street pavement.
8. "Pupil" means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or nonprofit private school located within the school district or contiguous school district as the case may be.

Provision of Transportation

Transportation by private carrier may be provided whenever such practice is more economical than using school district-owned/leased facilities. If parents volunteer, and the administration permits, parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible students whenever such practice is more economical or convenient for the school district.

In determining the provision of transportation for resident public and eligible private school students, the following guidelines regarding walking distances will be considered. Distance measurements will be based on the most direct route from the student's home beginning at a point at the curb or edge of a public road or highway nearest the home to the edge of the school property or bus pickup areas.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Limit</u>
K-12	1 mile

Students living within the stated distance limits will receive transportation when, in the opinion of the Superintendent of Schools, it is in the best interests of the district to provide transportation.

Access to Bus Stops/Transportation

Parents and/or guardians are responsible for ensuring the safety of their children up until the point when students board the school bus or other school provided transportation, and after students get off the bus after school. This responsibility includes the selection of walking routes to/from any bus stop and/or the school building and the provision of supervision that is appropriate to the student's age, maturity and conditions along the walking route and/or at the bus stop at all times.

Given that bus pick up times may vary, the Board expects that parents and/or guardians will ensure that their children arrive at the bus stop in advance of any scheduled pick up time.

Hazardous Conditions

1. Any street, road or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous for pupils enrolled in Grades K-8 if any two of the following conditions exist. But for pupils enrolled in Grades 9-12, such road, street, or highway shall be deemed hazardous when three or more of the following conditions exist:

- a . There exists a line of sight obstruction caused by a hill, curve, structure, outcropping, land form, planting or other obscuring object or structure which may be safely negotiated by vehicles only at greatly reduced speeds.
- b . For all pupils, any street, road or highway with speed limits in excess of 30 miles per hour which do not have traffic control devices at points where pupils must cross when going to or from school or from the bus stop.
- c . The absence of traffic control devices and/or signs including, but not limited to, electronic signals, crosswalks, stop signs, crossing guards.
- d . Where a five year look back of vehicular and/or pedestrian accidents on the route along which the pupil walks is reasoned to be excessive.
- e . Where the width of the shoulder of the road along which the pupil walks is such that the safe walking area is severely limited.
- f . A situation shall be considered hazardous wherein the Board of Education requires a pupil enrolled in Grades K-8 to walk to and from school at any time prior to 45 minutes before sunrise or anytime 45 minutes after sunset.

Applicability and Exceptions

1. This policy is applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-220c.
2. The Superintendent of Schools may grant an exception to any guideline set forth in this policy where a peculiar condition or combination of conditions renders such condition(s) a hazard based upon reasonable judgment; or where under the circumstances, other conditions exist under which the safety of students necessitates a variance with the guidelines within this policy.

Complaint Procedure

All complaints concerning school transportation safety shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a written record of all such complaints and incidents utilizing the Torrington Public Schools Bus Accident and Incident Form, and shall conduct appropriate investigations of the allegations in a timely manner. The investigation shall include 1) the review of the complaint raised with appropriate personnel responsible for transportation of students and 2) the opportunity for the parent or other person making the complaint to meet with the Superintendent to discuss the complaint and any possible resolution thereof. If a complaint covered by Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and is not resolved by the Superintendent, the Superintendent shall inform parent or guardian, or an emancipated minor or a pupil eighteen years of age or older, of his or her right to request a hearing regarding the complaint. Such hearing, if requested, shall be held in accordance with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as it may be amended from time to time.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-221c Development of policy for reporting complaints regarding school transportation safety

14-275b Transportation of mobility impaired students.

14-275c Regulations re: school buses and motor vehicles used to transport special education students.

Policy 6200: Transportation Policy 6200 – Adopted February 7, 1979; Revised November 1, 1989; Revised November 6, 1992; Revised January 11, 1995; Revised February 6, 2002. Revised and Approved June 15, 2011. Revised and Approved by the Torrington Board of Education on May 23, 2018. Policy Number Changed to 5200 on September 22, 2021 with BOE Approval. Revised and Approved with BOE Approval on December 15, 2021.