

RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student Transportation

Policy # 8410

District school buses may only be used in compliance with Section 3635 of the NYS Education Law. The responsibility for administering the transportation system rests with the superintendent of schools or superintendent's designee.

The Board of Education affirms its goal of providing a safe and economical transportation system for district students. Transportation shall be provided at district expense to those students who are eligible as authorized by the Board.

The major objectives in the management of the student transportation program shall include the following:

1. to provide efficient, effective and safe service;
2. to ensure that all students whose disability or distance from school requires them to receive necessary transportation do, in fact, receive it;
3. to adapt the system to the demands of the instructional program;
4. to maintain transportation vehicles in the best possible condition;
5. to review at least once a year school bus schedules and routing plans to ensure that maximum efficiency and safety are maintained; and
6. to review at least once a year the eligibility for transportation of students residing in the district, to ensure that all entitled to the services receive them.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for administering the transportation program. The program shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and policies established by federal, state and local authorities.

Eligibility for Student Transportation

At minimum, resident students who meet the following criteria shall be eligible for transportation:

1. All elementary school students.
2. Middle and high school students who reside a distance 0.8 miles or greater as measured from the West Market Street entrance to the Linden Avenue school.
3. Any residents in an area currently being provided transportation as of 1/13/16.
4. Students with Disabilities are eligible for transportation to and from their legal residence and the school they attend in accordance with their IEP or 504 accommodation plan. If no special transportation supports or services are recommended, students with disabilities will be transported similarly to their non-disabled peers consistent with paragraphs (1) and (2) above.
5. Homeless Students, as defined under the McKinney-Vento Act and Education Law 3209, if not otherwise transported by a state or local social service agency or division for youth, are eligible for District provided transportation not to exceed 50 miles each way, unless

the Commissioner of Education certifies that transportation in excess of 50 miles is in the best interest of the child.

6. Non-public and Private School under the Education Law and in accordance of New York State Education Department regulations, districts must provide transportation to nonpublic or private school students who are legal residents of the district and attend a nonpublic school located within a 15-mile radius from their legal residence.

Requests for Transportation

Non-Public and Parochial Schools

In accordance with New York State Education Department regulations, to secure transportation services for the upcoming school year, a parent or guardian of an eligible child (see above) residing in the District must submit a written request to the District's transportation department no later than April 1st of the preceding school year. For families who become residents after April 1st, a written request for transportation should be submitted within thirty (30) days of establishing residency. Late requests for transportation will be denied, absent a reasonable explanation for the delay.

Child Care Locations

Resident students attending public or non-public schools located within the school district may be provided transportation to and from a licensed day care and/or babysitter throughout the school week on a regular basis. Students will be permitted to be picked up at and/or dropped off at their residence (or alternate residence in the case of split households) on some days and one designated child-care location on other days, on a regularly set schedule. The district will not consider requests for busing to a child-care location outside district boundaries. The district will honor requests for child-care transportation provided they are made no later than April 1 of the preceding school year. New district residents have 30 days to submit child-care transportation requests. Variances from scheduled transportation will not be considered on a day to day basis and, in the discretion of the district, may only be permitted if it results in a new regularly set schedule to and from a child-care location.

Alternative Drop Off Locations

In the incidence of a School Emergency Closing, the alternative drop off location provided on the transportation form completed at the beginning of each school year may be utilized.

School Bus Scheduling and Routing

Time and route schedules will be established at the beginning of each school year. Bus stops must be at least three-tenths of a mile apart. Departure from these schedules will be permitted only in the interest of safety.

School buses shall be routed to avoid a student crossing situation whenever practical on U.S. Route 9, S.R. 9G, S.R. 199, and S.R. 308. Parents of students may request that their child be allowed to cross in front of the bus, however, each request is to be analyzed individually and may be denied in the interest of safety.

Pick-Up Points

Bus drivers must pick-up students at regularly designated stops and in accordance with any approved child-care designated stops.

Transportation from school to work, unless part of a work-study program, is not a legitimate use of a school vehicle.

Centralized Pick-Up Points For Non-Public School Students

Requests for transportation to private schools will be provided in conformity with provisions of New York State Law. Pick-up points will be determined by the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

Revised and

Approved by 8/25/21