

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS 3000**

**3600**

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

**3601**

**1. Statement of Purpose & Scope of Policy**

**A.** The purpose of school transportation is to get pupils who live an unreasonable walking distance from home to school and back in an efficient, safe, and economical manner. Other purposes consistent with this definition include the provision of transportation for academic field trips in direct support of the curriculum and transportation for the support of the co-curricular program (e.g., music, drama, athletics).

**B.** It is the intention of the School Committee to comply with the letter and spirit of the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 68 and other laws pertinent to the transportation of pupils, and these shall govern any questions not covered by specific declaration of policy herein.

MGL Ch. 71, section 68 states that “if the distance between a child’s residence and the school s/he is entitled to attend exceeds two (2) miles and the nearest school bus stop is more than one mile from such residence . . . , the school committee (city) is responsible for providing transportation to students in grades K-6.

The school committee may assess fees to the transported students in grades 7-12 up to the amount sufficient to cover the costs incurred by the district; provided however, that no student eligible for free or reduced lunch, under the federal school lunch program, shall be required to pay the fee.

**2. Mileage Limits for Entitlement to District-Provided Transportation –**

**A.** The Salem School Committee has determined that student bus transportation shall be provided at no cost for students in grades K-6 in accordance with MGL CH. 71, section 68. The School Committee shall review and consider changes in these mileage limits on an annual basis as the transportation system and budget allow.

**B.** The School Committee, at its discretion and to the extent permitted by Massachusetts’ law, shall be provided authorize transportation for a fee to students who are not entitled to District-provided transportation to and from school as stated above.

**C.** No mileage restrictions nor any fees, shall apply to the transportation of a student whose individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan includes entitlement to school transportation.

**D.** A bus pass shall be required for each student who is transported by the Salem Public School District, and will be issued to each eligible student. The bus pass is a valuable document and must be retained in order for students to ride the bus.

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**E.** Neither rerouting an established bus route when said bus is at capacity ridership, nor the addition of a bus to create a new route, shall be required to accommodate a request for transportation for a fee. When either rerouting or adding a bus is the only way to accommodate a request for paid transportation, that request will be denied. The last student who purchased transportation (or receives FRL ride privileges) on a given route would be the first student to be denied transportation if that route should exceed capacity. Prorated fees would be refunded.

**F.** When a student transported for a fee is suspended from school, due to a violation of her or her school’s code of conduct, or is denied transportation due to violation of the transportation code of conduct for students, neither the student nor his or her parent or guardian shall be entitled to reimbursement of any part of the fee paid for transportation, except when the suspension is for the remainder of the school year. Reimbursement shall be made pro rata, based on division of the fee by the number of months in the school year.

**G. Eligibility for Transportation and Controlled Choice**

Under the Salem School Committee’s student assignment policy, parents have the opportunity to select a school other than their neighborhood school. Busing will be provided for those children who enroll in a school other than their neighborhood school only if they meet the distance eligibility requirements detailed above and are consistent with the objectives of policy 5103 “Student assignment”. For all others, transportation is the responsibility of the parent

**H. Late Bus Transportation**

“Late bus” transportation is for those students who stay past the normal dismissal times for school-related purposes at the middle school and high school. On occasion, when funds allow, “late bus” service will be provided to students at the elementary school level in conjunction with academic support programs.

**I. Rider Eligibility**

Any persons who are not employees and/or Salem students are not entitled to District transportation and are prohibited from Salem School District busses.

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Legal Reference: Policy 5103, "Student Assignment"  
M.G.L. c. 71 §§ 7A, 68  
29 U.S.C. §794 (Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)  
34 C.F.R. Part 104

Approved: 6/11/03  
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