

Regional School Unit 73 Board of Directors	CODE: EEA Page 1
SUBJECT: Student Transportation Services	
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: Dec. 4, 1997; Nov. 1, 2007 DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: 2018 CANCELS POLICY CODE: None REVISION DATE: None	
JURISDICTION: RSU 73 Schools	

POLICY:

Bus Transportation between Home and School within the Towns of Jay, Livermore and Livermore Falls

School buses shall be purchased, operated and maintained by RSU 73 for the transportation of eligible resident children located within the Towns of Jay, Livermore and Livermore Falls. These buses shall all be operated within the limits of the laws of the State of Maine.

Eligible riders, as defined by the RSU 73 Board, are children attending public schools and residing within the boundaries of Jay, Livermore or Livermore Falls.

Transportation privileges may be allowed on the following criteria:

A1. Elementary students (Grades Pre-K to Grade 1) will be transported as close as practical to their residence or child care place. However, students may be required to walk to an established bus stop if it is deemed by the Transportation Director to be impractical because of unsafe circumstances.

A2. Elementary students (Grades 2-5) are entitled to transportation between home and school within the Towns of Jay, Livermore and Livermore Falls, if they live over 1/3 (one-third) mile from the school to which they are assigned. Students in Grades 2-5 may be required to walk (up to 1/3 mile) to a regularly established school bus route or pre-designated bus pick-up if in the opinion of the Transportation Director, conditions require that to take place.

B. Middle (Grades 6-8) and Secondary students (Grades 9-12) are entitled to transportation between home and school within the Towns of Jay, Livermore, and Livermore Falls, if they live over one half (1/2) mile from the school to which they are assigned. Students in Grades 6-12 may be required to walk up to one half (1/2) mile to a regularly established school bus route or pre-designated bus pick-up if in the opinion of the Transportation Director, conditions require that to take place.

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The above walking limits do not apply within trailer parks and housing developments. Jay will service trailer parks and housing developments at the entrance only, regardless of the mileage walked from within to the entrance. The entrance is the measure point in regards to the walking policy of the School Department.

It is recognized that in isolated cases it may be necessary for a student to walk beyond the established distances because of road conditions that will not permit a bus to service the student within the established distances.

Exceptions to the above distances shall be made for the following reasons only:

A. Health - at the request of a medical or osteopathic physician. Exceptions to the established walking distances may be made only in the case of a child with a temporary or permanent physical handicapping condition.

B. Hazardous Walking Conditions - hazardous walking conditions shall be defined as those which would place a child of a given age in a situation of more than normal or average danger. Age shall be considered in making this determination. In general, hazardous conditions would involve walking on heavily traveled or high speed roads or streets where no sidewalks are available or crossing heavily traveled or high speed streets or roads where no crossing guides or crossing lights are available or other unique circumstances.

Subject to the prior claim of resident pupils to transportation service, a pupil not a legal resident or not residing in the Towns of Jay, Livermore or Livermore Falls, but attending the RSU 73 district, may be transported by RSU 73 school buses over regularly established bus routes by obtaining permission from the Superintendent of Schools. Such permission will be granted only if the student, either by walking or by other modes of transportation, can be located for pick-up at a current designated bus stop. Such permission may also be terminated at will in the event that such permission of bus privileges to non-resident pupils causes overloading of a bus.

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Students Who Are Serviced at Child Care Locations

Each bus student will be assigned to an authorized bus stop. The School District will establish the stop near the residence of the child or near the child care location, whichever is requested by the parent. The stop will be within the walking distance as defined in this policy and will be limited to authorized stops. Only one (1) stop shall be authorized for each student and that stop shall be considered as permanent until changed by the Transportation Director.

A. A parent shall work with the Transportation Director when a change in the authorized stop location is necessary. When a child care need exists, the School District may consider no more than two (2) authorized stops for a child, however, the A.M. stop and the P.M. stop must remain constant.

B. RSU 73 will accept requests to change the assigned authorized stop only under the following conditions:

1. Change in legal residence; and/or,
2. Change in child care location.

Bus drivers shall pick up only at scheduled stops; they shall not admit students not assigned to that particular bus. Drivers are required not to exceed the legal bus capacity.

Students shall ride only on assigned buses. At the close of school they shall be permitted to disembark at other points or to ride other buses only after presenting the bus driver with a note written by the parent and approved by the building principal or designee.

Notes will only be accepted to meet special needs of students. They will be honored only when bus seating is available. A note must be written by the parent and approved by the principal or designee for each occurrence. Notes written to cover extended periods of time will not be considered.

Appeals Process

The RSU 73 Board of Directors recognizes that there may be exceptions to this policy. In keeping with this concept, the following appeals process will be available to resolve issues related to consolidated bus stops or walking distances:

Step 1: The parent/guardian will contact the Director of Transportation and fill out an appeals form stating the reasons for the appeal. The Director of Transportation will review the information provided, and if warranted, confer with the bus driver and visit the site.

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Step 2: Should the parent/guardian wish to appeal the decision of the Transportation Director, they will contact the Superintendent of Schools and set up an appointment. The Superintendent will meet with the parent/guardian and the Director of Transportation to review the information available and make a decision within 5 days.

Step 3: Should the parent/guardian wish to appeal the decision of the Superintendent, they will contact the Superintendent of Schools and set an agenda item for the next regular meeting of the School Board. The School Board will meet with the parent/guardian, the Superintendent and the Director of Transportation to review the information available and make a decision which shall be binding.

Supervision of riders on buses will be the prime responsibility of the bus driver. Discipline problems shall be directly reported to the Transportation Director and the principal of the school the child attends. The principal and the Transportation Director, on the basis of the bus driver's report and after investigation, will then administer what in their opinion is the measure of disciplinary action necessary. The Transportation Director may deny bus privileges to a bus student after informing the student's parents, the principal, and the bus driver of the proposed action. Warning notices will be sent to parents by the Transportation Director to inform them that continued irregular behavior on school buses by their children will result in the termination of their privilege to ride the RSU 73 school buses.

If in the best judgment of the driver and the Transportation Director, immediate action should be taken to protect the health and safety of the passengers, they shall be authorized to do so.

Adopted: December 13, 2012