

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Chapter 285 of the Code of Iowa requires school districts to either provide transportation to students or reimburse parents for transportation according to the following guidelines:

- Elementary students (K-5) residing more than one mile from the school designated for attendance;
- Middle school students (6-8) residing more than two miles from the school designated for attendance;
- High school students (9-12) residing more than three miles from the school designated for attendance.

Boards, in their discretion, may provide transportation for some or all resident students attending public or nonpublic schools who are not entitled to transportation as outlined in Chapter 285 of the Code of Iowa.

The following situations may be exceptions to the above policy:

1. Students who live less than the mileage guideline may ride a school bus, providing seats are available on an existing route.
2. Students enrolling after the start of the school year and assigned to another attendance center due to class size.
3. The district may transport elementary students if the only walking route available is considered hazardous as determined by District personnel.
4. Students who are approved to attend a district contiguous to the Waterloo Community School District under the State Enacted Open Enrollment Program and who meet the eligibility requirements for free or reduced meals, upon request shall be provided transportation to a point that is a designated stop on a regular bus route of the contiguous receiving district upon the agreement of the receiving district; or as an alternative, the District shall pay the parent or guardian for providing transportation.

TRANSPORTATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Enrolled students requiring special education shall meet the distance requirements stated above for transportation to and from their designated attendance center unless the transportation is specified in the individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP) as determined by the IEP/IFSP team. The school district will provide one or more of the following transportation arrangements for instructional services and the AEA for support services:

- Transportation to and from the student's residence to the location of the special education or child care placement for students under the age of six.
- Special assistance or adaptations in getting the student to and from and on and off the vehicle, en route to and from special education.
- Reimbursement of the actual costs of transportation when by mutual agreement the parents provide transportation for the student to and from special education.

Per Board Discretion:

- A student may be required to meet a school vehicle up to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, without reimbursement.
- The parent may be required to transport their children up to two miles to connect with the school vehicle when conditions deem it advisable.
- Parents of students who meet the mileage guidelines but live where transportation by school vehicle is impracticable or unavailable.

Parents who transport their children for reasons deemed as reimbursable are reimbursed at the rate per mile set by the state.

Parents may choose to provide transportation without reimbursement regardless of distance from the attendance center.

Legal Ref.: Iowa Code §§ 256B.4; 285; 321
20 U.S.C. §§ 1401, 1701 *et seq.*
34 C.F.R. Pt. 300 *et seq.*
281 I.A.C. 41.412.

Cross Ref.: 501.21 Homeless Children and Youth
501.17 Transportation of Open Enrollment Students by Receiving Districts
602.6 Special Education

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