

HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY NUMBER: 4.5(b)	ADOPTED: 9/24/07
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STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The District shall provide transportation for pupils to schools in the District consistent with the provisions of RSA 189:6 and RSA 189:9 provided the students live within the guidelines listed below:

- Grade 1 – 5 students live within one-half mile of the school
- Grade 6 – 8 students live within one mile of the school
- Grade 9 – 12 students live within one and one-half miles of the school

The distance to school is measured by starting where the residence driveway meets a public road, or at the exit of a private housing community, and ends at the front door of the school. The Superintendent of Schools, or designee, may make exceptions to the general policies in cases involving students suffering from a medically documented physical condition or in other cases where the Superintendent, or designee, deems there is sufficient justification to make an exception.

RIDE TIME LIMITS

No student will ride longer than one hour on the bus to school and one hour home from school. Exceptions may arise due to inclement weather or other unanticipated conditions.

STUDENT BUS CONDUCT

Any student using school provided transportation shall be subject to appropriate rules. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly while riding the bus. Students who violate standards for proper conduct will be reported to the principal, or designee, for appropriate disciplinary action. While individual or unique incidents of disruptive behavior may occur, the rules related to student behavior, applicable to all student riders include, but are not limited to, the following prohibited actions:

- Using profane or obscene language;
- Smoking or possession or use of alcoholic beverages;
- Disturbing the driver;
- Climbing over seats;
- Standing in the aisle or on the seat when the vehicle is in motion;
- Leaning out windows;
- Throwing objects within the bus or out the windows;
- Littering the bus;
- Vandalizing bus property;
- Any other disorderly behavior.

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Parents/guardians will be held responsible for any defacing or damaging of the bus. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 189:6-8, the superintendent, or representative as designated in writing, is authorized to suspend the right of students from riding in a school bus when such students fail to conform to the reasonable rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the school board. Any suspension to continue beyond twenty (20) school days must be approved by the school board. Said suspension shall not begin until the next school day following the day notification of suspension is sent to the student's parent or legal guardian.

- I. If a student has been denied the right to ride a school bus for disciplinary reasons, the parent or guardian of that student has a right of appeal within ten (10) school days of suspension to the authority that suspended this student's right.
- II. Until the appeal is heard, or if the suspension of student's right to ride the school bus is upheld, it shall be the parents' or guardians' responsibility to provide transportation to and from school for that student for the period of the suspension.

Suspension incurred at the end of one school year will be served at the beginning of the next school year. Bus suspensions prohibit students from riding any school bus for the term of the suspension.

VIDEO TAPES OF STUDENTS ON SCHOOL BUSES

Video taping of students on school buses has been authorized to maintain and improve discipline and ensure the health, welfare, and safety of students, staff and bus drivers on school transportation vehicles.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

The safety and welfare of student riders will be the first consideration in all matters pertaining to transportation. Safety precautions will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Students will be instructed as to the proper procedures for boarding and exiting from a school bus and in proper and safe conduct while aboard.
2. Emergency evacuation drills will be conducted at least two times a year to acquaint student riders with procedures in emergency situations.
3. All vehicles used to transport students will be inspected on a regular schedule to ensure they meet applicable safety regulations.

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USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS

Any use of private vehicles for transportation of students to or from school on field trips, athletic events, or other school functions must have prior authorization by the Superintendent of Schools, or Designee. Those providing unauthorized student transportation do so at their own expense and liability. This includes employees of the School District. Students who drive themselves and other students to and/or from Vocational Educational classes do so at their own expense and liability.

Any employee or private citizen using their own or a rented vehicle to provide school-authorized student transportation must have auto liability insurance of not less than \$100,000/\$300,000 Combined Single Limit and provide a Certificate of Insurance. The District will maintain liability insurance, which will be in excess of the owner's primary insurance for authorized student transportation. A copy of the proof of insurance will be kept on file by the building principal.

Those individuals transporting on an incidental basis, i.e., not specifically as part of a contract to transport, must have a valid driver's license, and a vehicle which has a current NH inspection sticker. A commercial license is required for any vehicle that has a capacity of sixteen (16) or more.