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**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

**TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS**

**3545.1**

**I. Transportation of Students**

The Board of Education will provide transportation for pupils under provisions of state law and regulations. The superintendent of schools shall administer the operation.

Transportation by private carrier may be provided whenever such practice is more economical than using school district-owned/leased facilities. Parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible pupils whenever such practice is more economical or convenient.

A. Eligibility

Resident public and private nonprofit school pupils living outside of the defined walking limits (subparagraph 1. below), based on the most direct route from the pupil's home beginning at a point at the curb or edge of a public road or highway nearest the home to the edge of the school property or bus pickup areas, will be furnished transportation by the Board of Education. Pupils will be eligible for school transportation if one or more of the following criteria are present:

1. The walking distance for the pupil, either to school or to the nearest bus stop, is in excess of the following distances:
  - (a) For pupils enrolled in grades K through 3, up to one (1) mile;
  - (b) For students enrolled grades 4 through 6 one and one quarter (1.25) miles;
  - (c) For pupils enrolled in grades 7 through 12, one and one half (1.5) miles.
2. The walking route does not exceed the limits set forth in subparagraph 1. above, but presents hazardous conditions (described in Section II below) which the board cannot reasonably eliminate or adequately abate.

**II. Hazardous Conditions**

A. Descriptions

1. A street or road having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any of the following conditions exist:

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- (a) For pupils under age ten, or enrolled in grades K through 3, absence of pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect, and at street crossing where there are no stop signs or crossing guards and the traffic count during the time that pupils are walking to or from school exceeds sixty vehicles per hour at the intersection;
  - (b) For pupils, age ten or over, or enrolled in grades 4 through 12, the absence of a traffic light or stop signs or crossing guard where three or more streets intersect and has a traffic count which exceeds ninety vehicles per hour during the time that pupils are walking to or from school;
  - (c) For all pupils any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty miles per hour which do not have pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where pupils must cross when going to or from school or the bus stop;
  - (d) For all pupils, the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open man-holes, construction, snow plowed or piled on the walk area making walkways unusable, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on walkways, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking entrances at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, and the like, including such nuisances which are hazardous or attractive to children.
2. Any street, road, or highway, which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if anyone of the following conditions exist:
- (a) For pupils under age ten or enrolled in grade K through 3, any street, road, or highway possessing a traffic count of sixty or more vehicles per hour at the time that pupils are walking to or from schools;
  - (b) For all pupils, the presence of man-made hazards inducing attractive nuisances, as stated in number 4 above;
  - (c) For all pupils any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty-two feet;
  - (d) For all pupils any roadway available to vehicles when plowed free of snow accumulations, that does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty feet; and
  - (e) For pupils under age ten, or enrolled in grades K through 3, any street, road, or highway possessing speed limit in excess of thirty miles per hour.

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3. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous when the line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Drivers Manual or Connecticut Department of Transportation, Division of Design.
4. Any walkway, path or bridge in an area adjacent or parallel to railroad tracks shall be considered hazardous unless a suitable physical barrier along the entire pedestrian route is present and fixed between pupils and the track; and any crossing of railroad tracks that carry moving trains during hours that pupils are walking to or from school shall be deemed hazardous unless, (1) a crossing guard is present or (2) an automatic control bar is present at crossings used by pupils under age ten, or a bar or red flashing signal light is operational when the crossing; is used by pupils over ten years of age.
5. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, water-way, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water for pupils in grades K through 4.
6. Any area adjacent to a roadway, sidewalk, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes, the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades K through 4.
7. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route for all school pupils which passes through an area which has a history of aggressive acts of molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when pupils ordinarily walk to or from school shall be deemed hazardous.
8. Walking to or from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one half-hour before sunrise or any time one half-hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades K through 8.

B. Private Roads

These guidelines are applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with c.c.s. Section 10-220c.

**III. Exceptions**

- A. The Enfield Board of Education may grant exceptions to any provision of this guideline when in reasonable judgment the peculiar conditions or combination of conditions eliminate or significantly mitigate any substantive risk to pupil safety implied by a described hazard. The Enfield Board of Education may grant exceptions to any

151 provision of this guideline when in its reasonable judgment particular  
152 conditions or combinations of conditions create a hazard not described.

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154 C. The superintendent may grant temporary exceptions to ineligibility of  
155 pupils when in his/her reasonable judgment a temporary hazard exists  
156 (e.g., construction affecting a walking route). The superintendent will  
157 communicate transportation conditions and arrangements to the parents  
158 or legal guardians of each student affected and will provide the board  
159 with current information regarding the status of each case.  
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161 D. Special Education pupils and pupils eligible for services under Section  
162 504 of the Rehabilitation Act shall be judged on an individual basis.

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164 **IV. Definitions**

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166 A. *School transportation* means the procedure, program, or fully effective  
167 and implemented plan by which a pupil is conveyed to and/or from  
168 school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense, whether  
169 by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation  
170 shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads  
171 approved pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-220C.  
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173 B. *Walking distance* means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized  
174 pedestrian route between the pupil's residence and his/her school from a  
175 point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil's  
176 residence to a point at the entrance of the school or a safe entrance to  
177 the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school  
178 building entrance or the bus stop pick-up area, or the route from the  
179 point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus  
180 or vehicle embarkation point established by the Enfield Board of  
181 Education.  
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183 C. *One mile walking distance* means a reasonable measurement of a route  
184 to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280  
185 feet but not more than 5,380 feet.  
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187 D. *Grade K* means kindergarten or a school program appropriate to a  
188 beginning pupil.  
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190 E. *Hazard* means a thing or condition, as prescribed in these guidelines,  
191 affecting the safety of pupils walking to and from school.  
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193 F. *Sidewalk* means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately  
194 three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved  
195 or unpaved and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or  
196 fencing; apart from and independent of any white line safety markings  
197 along the street pavement.  
198  
199 G. *Raised walk area* means a portion of the landscape right of way  
200 approximately three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which

201 may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the  
202 street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area  
203 or fencing; apart from and independent of any painted safety markings  
204 along the street pavement.  
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206 H. *Pupil* means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or nonprofit  
207 private school located within the school district or contiguous school  
208 district as the case may be.  
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213 **Legal Reference Connecticut General Statutes:**

- 214  
215 **10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education.**  
216 **10-220 Duties of boards of education.**  
217 **14-275 Equipment and color of school buses.**  
218 **14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when.**  
219 **14-275b Transportation of handicapped students.**  
220 **14-275c Regulations re school buses and motor vehicles used to transport**  
221 **special education students.**  
222 **14-276a(c) Town/school district may require its school bus operators to**  
223 **have completed a safety training course.**  
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- 226 **Policy Adopted: February 23, 1960**  
227 **Policy Amended: September 19, 1960**  
228 **Policy Amended: October 25, 1960**  
229 **Policy Amended: June 13, 1960**  
230 **Policy Amended: August 15, 1961**  
231 **Policy Amended: September I, 1964**  
232 **Policy Amended: March 14, 1967 (effective: September 1, 1967)**  
233 **Policy Amended: November 12, 1968**  
234 **Policy Amended: March 16, 1972**  
235 **Policy Amended: January 14, 1975**  
236 **Policy Amended: June 27, 1995**  
237 **Policy Amended: January 23, 1996**  
238 **Policy Reviewed: February 10, 2009**

239 **ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
240 **ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

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243 **TRANSPORTATION APPEALS**  
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245 The duty of transporting public school children is placed by statute in the  
246 hands of local Boards of Education. While there is no exact distance established  
247 by law in our state as to how far a child must walk to school or to a school bus  
248 line, the State Board of Education has consistently found that elementary  
249 children between the ages of six and sixteen years should not be expected to  
250 walk more than one and one-half miles to school or to a school bus line and  
251 secondary students (junior and senior high school students) under sixteen  
252 years of age should not be expected to walk more than two miles to such points.  
253

254 In situations involving hazardous conditions, the State Board of Education  
255 takes into consideration such factors as the type of hazard present, the length  
256 of time children are exposed to the hazard, the number and ages of the children  
257 involved.  
258

259 Section 10-186, 1958 Revision of the General Statutes, establishes procedures  
260 which parents may use when they believe that the local board of education is  
261 failing to provide reasonable and necessary transportation for their children. In  
262 general, this section of the statutes provides that:  
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- 264 1. Any parent or guardian of a child who is over six and under sixteen years of  
265 age may petition the local board of education in writing for a hearing  
266 concerning the transportation of his or her own child or children. (It is  
267 recommended that such a petition be sent to the secretary of the local board  
268 of education by registered mail with a return receipt requested so that the  
269 parent is informed as to when the petition was received).  
270
- 271 2. The local board of education is required to give a petitioning parent or  
272 guardian a hearing within ten days from receipt of the written petition.  
273
- 274 3. The local board of education is required to make a finding within ten days  
275 after it holds the hearing noted in item 2 above.  
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- 277 4. If a local board of education fails to give a hearing or fails to make a finding  
278 within ten days after holding such hearing, or if any parent or guardian is  
279 aggrieved by the decision of the local board, he may then appeal in writing to  
280 the State Board of Education for a hearing. (Group appeals or petitions are  
281 not acceptable for State Board of Education purposes; a separate petition of  
282 appeal must be filed for each family. Such petitions may be for any number  
283 of children within one family who are between six and sixteen years of age.)  
284
- 285 5. Upon receipt of a petition of appeal, the State Board of Education will cause  
286 a hearing to be held by its hearing agent in the town in which the complaint  
287 arises. (Each case is decided on its own merit. However, a number of  
288 appeals may be heard at anyone hearing.) The report of the hearing is made

289 to a subsequent meeting of the State Board of Education. The State Board  
290 then makes its finding and notifies the parties involved.

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292 The Commissioner of Education has advised local boards to follow certain  
293 procedures in dealing with transportation appeals:

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295 1. See that the forms recommended by the State Department of Education for  
296 transportation hearings and appeals are used.

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298 2. Request that parents who ask a hearing before the local board of education  
299 specify in writing the conditions which they are citing to substantiate any  
300 claim of hazardous conditions making transportation reasonable and  
301 necessary.

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303 3. In cases where requests for transportation are denied after a hearing, notify  
304 the parent of the finding of the local board and specify in writing the board's  
305 reasons for holding that such transportation is not reasonable or desirable.

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307 4. Before arriving at a decision in transportation hearings, see that the  
308 following is done:

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310 a. Have the distances involved measured by a member or an agent of the  
311 board.

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313 b. Secure a report and recommendation from the chief of police or other  
314 traffic authority concerning such items as road conditions, speed and  
315 density of traffic, natural hazards, etc.

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317 c. Determine possible means of eliminating hazardous conditions by  
318 consultation with the responsible authorities.

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320 d. Seek to bring about the elimination of hazardous conditions in order to  
321 avoid appeal from the local board's decision.