Regulation #8600 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

A. Transportation shall be provided in accordance with State laws, State Board of Education regulations, and local Board policies for any eligible resident pupil, whether in public or non-public school attendance, between the legal residence of the parent or guardian and the school to which the pupil is regularly assigned.

1. Eligibility shall be determined according to the distance between the legal residence and the school to which the pupil is regularly assigned as follows:

a. One-half mile or more ------ Pupils in Pre-School through Grade Five

b. One and one half miles or more ---------- Pupils in Grades 6 through 8

c. Beyond two miles---------- Pupils in Grades 9 through 12

For the purpose of determining eligibility, measurement shall be made by the shortest route along public roadways or walkways from the entrance of the pupil's residence nearest such public roadway or walkway to the nearest public entrance of the assigned school.

2. A bus pass will be issued to each pupil eligible for transportation. This pass will show the name of the pupil, the time of pick up, and specific location of the bus stop. It must be available to the school bus driver on request. Each pupil will board the bus at the designated pick up point and will be returned to that point at the end of the school day. There shall be no deviation from this procedure except in emergency and then only with the permission of the Superintendent of Schools.

3. Before a bus stop can be placed in an area that would make a driver enter a cul-de-sac, a Transportation Supervisor must approve it. The Supervisor will then evaluate the area for safety concerns. If in their opinion a bus will be able to safely complete the bus stop, a bus pass for that stop will be sent to the student.

4. The pupil who is domiciled at a residence other than that of his/her parent or guardian during the school day may be transported to and from that residence provided he/she is already an established eligible rider according to the distance requirement herein above cited, the secondary domicile also conforms to the distance requirement and there is already a designated school bus route for the area.

5. Bus transportation will not be provided for any pupil whose assignment to a school is the result of a request for a special transfer initiated by the parent or guardian.

B. A pupil with a physical or an organic defect substantiated by a medical certificate and approved by the school doctor shall be declared an eligible pupil irrespective of distance.

C. Upon written application by the parent or guardian of a pupil who is otherwise ineligible for the transportation services described in paragraph A1 and B above, but whose request is made on the basis of a traffic hazard or hazards, the Superintendent of Schools, upon consultation with the Coordinator of Pupil Transportation Service, the Vineland Department of Public Safety and/or other responsible agencies, may determine the pupil eligible for school bus transportation. Traffic hazard or hazards are defined below:

Unsafe Roadways to walk along-
1. No Sidewalks plus Speed Limit in excess of 35 and/or Traffic Volume of a Main Thoroughfare
2. With Sidewalks but, Speed limit in excess of 40 and/or Traffic Volume of a main thoroughfare
3. Also to be considered unsafe road hazards:
Blind Curves
Steep inclines and declines
Bridges
Railroad Tracks
Roadway with no shoulders
Adverse Roadway conditions (heavy crowning, no lighting, and roadway with)
Higher then normal Crime rate Area

Unsafe Roadways to cross (when walking to school)-
Any roadway with four or more lanes
Divided Highways
Main Thoroughfares with speeds over 35 mph
State Highways
County Roadways
Railroad tracks.

D. In accordance with New Jersey Statutes Annotated 18A:25-a, the driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times. Although the driver shall attempt to resolve disciplinary problems as they arise, unmanageable pupils shall be reported to the principal of the school which they attend.

Pupils who create disturbances or are disruptive influences on the school bus shall be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension from school or exclusion from the bus. When pupils are excluded from the bus, their parents or guardians shall be notified that they are required to provide for the pupil's transportation to and from school.

When the behavior of the pupil is considered by the school principal to be extraordinary and/or harmful to the individual pupil or to the safety of others, he/she may do the following: (1) exclude the pupil from the bus other than the limits described below; (2) suspend the pupil from school; and/or (3) recommend that the pupil be expelled from

school. Pupils exhibiting disruptive behavior because of mitigating circumstances shall be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Except for disruptive behavior described above, after gathering information from the pupil involved, school bus driver and others of unmanageable pupils referred by the school bus driver, if the pupil is found to have been disruptive the principal will instruct him/her to improve his/her behavior and warn him/her of further disciplinary action if additional problems arise. A letter will then be sent to the pupil's parents concerning the matter. Upon investigating subsequent referrals of the same pupil determined to be disruptive, the principal's disciplinary action shall be in accordance with the following guidelines:

Pupils Pre-School through Grade Eight
Second Referral -- Exclusion from the bus not to exceed five school days.

Third Referral -- Exclusion from the bus not to exceed ten school days.

Fourth and Subsequent Referrals -- Exclusion from the bus not to exceed thirty school days for each referral.

Pupils Grades Nine through Twelve
Second Referral -- Exclusion from the bus not to exceed five school days.

Third Referral -- Exclusion from the bus not to exceed thirty school days.

Fourth and Subsequent Referrals -- Exclusion from the bus for a period that may be for the remainder of the school year.

E. The parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in a non-profit private school located not more than thirty (30) miles from the pupil's residence shall obtain the necessary application form (B6T) from the school in which the pupil is enrolled. When properly completed the form shall be returned by the date prescribed to the school's administrative agent.

The agent shall alphabetize and submit the completed forms to the public school district's Coordinator of Pupil Transportation Services.

Upon completion of school bus routes and determination of eligibility for transportation, the private school shall be notified of the status of each pupil's request. Parents shall be notified through bus passes sent to eligible pupils. Other shall be notified by personal correspondence.

In cases where the per pupil cost exceeds the current state approved aid in lieu of payment amount, the parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of the pupil shall be eligible to receive a maximum of the current state approved aid in lieu of payment amount toward the cost of providing transportation to a qualified school other

than a public school regardless of whether such transportation is along established public school routes. The Board of Education reserves the option to pay aid in lieu of transportation or transport a private school student when the to and from school bus route exceeds 80 minutes.

When a transported pupil withdraws from the private school, the school's administrative agent shall give immediate notification to the public school district's Coordinator of Pupil Transportation Services and shall note the date of withdrawal on the summary form (B6T).

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