

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SRSD File: EEA

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Statement of Purpose:

It is the purpose of this policy to describe how the Sanborn Regional School District shall deliver its transportation services.

Statement of Policy:

The Sanborn Regional School Board shall contract its transportation services with a qualified vendor who is selected as a result of the board's evaluating competitive proposals.

Terms of the contract agreement shall include those factors necessary to operate a safe and efficient system for the district. A copy of the signed agreement will be maintained in the files of the Superintendent of Schools.

The District will provide pupil transportation services consistent with applicable law.

Per RSA 193:12, students who are deemed legal residents of the school district pursuant to a divorce decree or parenting plan developed under RSA 461-A will not necessarily be provided for students admitted under this provision and under corresponding law. The Superintendent or designee will make all determinations as to whether transportation will be provided in such circumstances. The Superintendent or designee's decision will be final.

Transportation Management

The Sanborn Regional School District transportation shall be organized to provide service based on safety, efficiency, adequacy and economy. Through the use of contracted services, the following shall be taken into consideration in developing the school transportation system:

1. Every school bus ride in itself is a learning experience, and the school bus ride should also leave pupils in the proper frame of mind to take full advantage of the instructional program offered.
2. Certain rules and regulations pertaining to the transportation of public school pupils in the State of New Hampshire have been established as contained in the Revised Statutes Annotated. Items covered in these statutes which shall be strictly enforced are as follows:

- a. Specifications governing school bus equipment
- b. Inspections of buses
- c. Qualifications for school bus drivers
- d. Driving regulations

3. Certain other regulations governing school buses are set forth in Rules and Regulations for School Transportation adopted May 1978 by the Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Safety, State of New Hampshire.

4. The Sanborn Regional School Board shall establish its school bus system to conform to or exceed minimum standards as set forth by the State.

General Operating Policy

The Superintendent, and/or designee shall establish the bus schedule and routes. Routes will be developed annually and posted. Pupils who attend chartered public schools within the district and pupils who attend private schools shall be entitled to the same transportation privileges within the District as are provided for pupils in public school. Bus stops shall be established under the direction of the Superintendent. The Sanborn Regional School Board shall be the final local authority on bus scheduling and routing, and further appeals shall be made to the State Department of Education. Drivers may not load or unload pupils at other than authorized bus stops.

The following factors will be considered in developing scheduling and routes:

1. No student shall be required to ride to and from a designated school for more than 45 minutes each way.

2. Routes and bus pick-up points will be established taking into consideration:

- a. safety of students
- b. safety of the buses
- c. time and length of the runs
- d. consolidation of bus pick-up and drop-off points
- e. traffic on major highways, through streets, and cul-de-sacs
- f. road conditions

3. Elementary students (grades K - 5) will not be required to ride on the same bus with secondary school students (grades 6 -12) except in unusual circumstances.

4. Elementary students (grades K - 5) will be transported to schools in their respective towns (unless special considerations or programs are approved by the Sanborn Regional School Board); middle school students will be transported to the Sanborn Regional Middle School in Newton; and high school students will be transported to the Sanborn Regional High School in Kingston.

Late buses to transport students who remain at school for extra help, disciplinary reasons, extra-curricular activities, and athletics will be provided at the discretion of the Sanborn Regional School Board.

Kindergarten through grade five students will not be discharged from school unless a parent, guardian, or known adult is present to pick them up at the designated bus stop or at the school building or after-school event.

Parents or guardians may opt out of the bus stop component of this policy in writing to the school principal. Parents or guardians may opt out of the school building or after-school event component of this policy in writing to the school principal provided that the student is walking a reasonable distance from the school not to exceed a quarter mile.

Student Transportation Insurance

It is the policy of the Sanborn Regional School District that the carrier shall maintain general liability insurance of \$2,000,000 and automobile liability insurance of 5,000,000.

The cost of this insurance is to be borne by the contracted vendor.

Student Conduct on Buses

Bus drivers have the responsibility to maintain orderly behavior of students on school buses and will report, in writing, misconduct to the student's Principal. Parents of children whose conduct on school buses endangers the health, safety and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of school bus riding privileges in accordance with the student discipline code. The school Principal will have the authority to suspend the riding privileges of students failing to conform to bus rules and regulations. The Board must approve suspensions of riding privileges that continue beyond twenty (20) days.

Walkers and Riders

According to the Articles of Agreement establishing the Sanborn Regional School District, the district shall provide transportation for ALL pupils in grades 1-12 to the schools within the district. Such transportation shall be consistent with and in addition to the provisions of RSA 189:6 and 189:8.

Elementary students (grades K-5) shall not be required to walk more than one-half mile where feasible to an established bus pick-up point. Middle and high school students shall not be required to walk more than one mile.

Elementary students (grades K-5) riding on school buses must present notes from their parents/guardian to the school if they will not be riding on their assigned buses.

Kindergarten through grade two students will not be discharged from a school bus unless a parent, guardian, or known adult is present at the stop. Parents or guardians may opt out of this policy in writing to the school principal.

Students who drive private vehicles to and from school may be required to show adequate cause or justification.

The Sanborn Regional School Board reserves the right to refuse transportation to any student who because of misbehavior or other reasons causes or becomes a safety hazard.

Resolution of Conflicts

Parents who wish to request a change or exemption from any of the Student Transportation policies shall direct that request to the SAU Transportation Coordinator. If the SAU Transportation Coordinator's ruling does not satisfy the parent, he/she may appeal the ruling within five days to the Superintendent. If the parent is again not satisfied by the ruling, he/she may appeal to the Superintendent within the next five day period. As a last appeal, the parent may request to appear before the Board's Transportation Committee.

Legal Reference:

RSA 189:6, Transportation of Pupils
RSA 189:8, Limitations and Additions
RSA 189:9, Pupils in Private Schools
RSA 189:9-a, Pupils Prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons
RSA 193:12, Legal Residency Required
RSA 194-B:2, V, Chartered Public Schools; Establishment

History:

Revised: April 2004
Revised: May 2006
Revised: August 2006
Revised: August 2008
Revised: September, 2013
Revised: September 2016
Revised: April 10, 2019
Revised: June 12, 2019