

School Transportation

It is the policy of the Clay County Board of Education to provide transportation for students as required by the State Code and State Board of Education Policy 4336 West Virginia School Bus Transportation Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses. Therefore, the Clay County Board of Education adopts State Board of Education Policy 4336 West Virginia School Bus Transportation Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses. The Clay County Board of Education further recognizes any changes to West Virginia School Bus Transportation Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses shall become part of this District policy upon passage by the State Board of Education.

Annually, the Board shall approve bus routes prior to the start of the school year. The Superintendent is authorized to make any necessary changes in an approved route that serve the best interest of students and fall within allowances established by State policy.

The State Code authorizes the Board to provide, at public expense, adequate means of transportation as follows:

- For all children of school age who live more than two (2) miles distance from the nearest available road.
- For children participating in Board-approved cocurricular and extracurricular activities.
- Across county lines for students transferred from one county to another by mutual agreement of both county boards of education, as reflected in the minutes of each participating board.
- Within available revenues, for students within two (2) miles distance of the school; and
- In the event students eligible for special education or Section 504 services require special transportation arrangements, the terms of such arrangements as contained in a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan shall prevail to the extent such transportation arrangements conflict with this policy.

Bus Safety

The Board authorizes the installation and use of video recording devices in the school buses to assist the drivers in providing for the safety and well-being of the students while on a bus and the West Virginia Department of Education Policy 4373: Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools, shall be applicable to all students while being transported by bus. In the event video recording devices have audio recording capabilities, the bus shall contain an appropriate posted notice of such capabilities.

The Board is authorized to mount a camera on any school bus for the purpose of enforcing the law forbidding the overtaking and passing of a school bus that is stopped for the purpose of receiving and discharging students and for any other lawful purpose.

Students meeting the Federal definition of "homeless" will be transported from their temporary place of residence to their school of assignment, at the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied minor, to the same extent as all other students of the County and consistent with this Policy. If the homeless

child or youth continues his/her education in the school of origin but begins living in an area served by another county, the county of origin and the county in which the homeless child is living shall agree upon the method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the counties cannot agree upon a method, the responsibility and costs for transportation are to be shared equally. In no event will a homeless student be denied enrollment based on issues related to student transportation.

Bus Operators

Should any bus operator be disqualified from performing the duties of bus operator through the revocation or suspension of bus operator certification or through the revocation or suspension of commercial driver's license, as a result of criminal conviction or for any other reason, the bus operator shall be deemed incompetent and shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

Transportation of Articles and Equipment

No bus operator shall be permitted to transport any article or piece of equipment that would obstruct his vision, block the aisles or exits, or in any way create a hazard to the occupants of the bus.

Transportation of Students Not Assigned to Regular Bus Route

Students may be transported on a bus on which they are not ordinarily assigned, only if there is adequate space available. A dated, signed note from the parent(s) or legal guardian shall be delivered to the school principal or their representative at the beginning of the school day. The principal or representative shall issue a bus pass for an approved bus stop to be delivered to the bus operator. The bus pass should be kept by the bus operator for his/her records. A bus pass may be issued for any number of days, as deemed appropriate by the principal, parent, or legal guardian.

Cell Phones

The number one priority of school bus transportation is the safety of students. Distractions to this priority must be held to a minimum. Therefore, the use of cellular telephones by bus operators while the vehicle is in motion and while students are loading, and unloading is prohibited except in case of extreme emergency. If a call is received while the vehicle is in motion, the driver should pull off the road in a safe manner to conclude the call.

While students may bring cell phones to allow for after-school communication with parents, cell phones will be turned off during the school day. Cell phones will remain off while students are riding a school bus and may only be used with the driver's permission or in an emergency. This permission must be obtained from the driver while the bus has stopped, and all students are safely on the bus.

Payment in Lieu of Transportation

Pupils who live more than two (2) miles one way or by the nearest road or path, from the designated bus stop or their designated school may be entitled to "In Lieu of Transportation" payments. The payments shall be made to the parent or legal guardian of the pupil(s) at a per mile rate approved by the Clay County Board of Education. In the presence of extenuating circumstances, the Director of

Transportation shall evaluate the level of need on a case-by-case basis and provide the Superintendent of Schools with a recommendation for approval.

Adopted:

