

Related Entries: (Not identified at this time)

Student Transportation

The following procedures shall be followed for transporting students enrolled in the School District of Lee County:

- (1) All students living within the District or who are assigned to a school in accordance with cooperative agreements and who live two (2) miles or more from their assigned school are eligible for transportation to and from school. The following conditions apply:
 - (a) The responsibility of the School Board of Lee County shall begin when students enter the school bus and end when the student departs the school bus. Parents/guardians are responsible for getting students to and from designated bus stops safely, and for their conduct and safety while waiting for the bus.
 - (b) A student who under a hardship waiver elects to attend a non-magnet school in a zone other than that in which he/she resides shall not be eligible for transportation.
 - (c) The most direct traveled route measures the two-mile distance to and from the school. Such distance shall be measured from the closest pedestrian entry point of the assigned school building. The pedestrian entry point of the residence shall be where private property meets the public right-of-way. The District shall determine the shortest pedestrian route whether or not it is accessible to motor vehicle traffic.
 - (d) Bus routes shall be designed to ensure that no racial or ethnic group carries a disproportionate burden with respect to time enroute or distance traveled.
- (2) Students shall enter and exit the school bus at the stop designated by the Board and may not enter or exit the bus at any other stop except in the case of an emergency or as approved in advance by the school principal. Requests to allow students to enter or exit at a stop other than their own, must be submitted in writing by the students' parents/guardians to their assigned school. Upon approval by the principal, a school official (e.g., teacher on bus duty) must give a bus pass indicating this approved change to the bus operator.
- (3) Parent/guardian requests for students to ride a bus other than the one serving their place of residence must be submitted to their assigned school and may be approved under the following conditions:

- 46 (a) The request is for a permanent, everyday basis.
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- 48 (b) There is an established route and stop in existence that shall fulfill the
49 request.
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- 51 (c) The parent/guardian understands that requests shall be granted on a space
52 available basis and permission may be revoked at a later date.
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- 54 (d) Requests for this alternate school transportation must be submitted in writing
55 to the principal for approval.
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- 57 (4) Students who live within the designated walking area of their assigned school are
58 eligible for school transportation to an after school day care provider, if the provider
59 is located on a regularly scheduled route from that school, an existing stop can be
60 used, and under the same conditions as specified in (3) above.
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- 62 (5) Any elementary school student who must walk along or cross a street that qualifies
63 as a hazardous walking condition pursuant to Florida law shall be transported and
64 elementary students who must walk along or cross a street that qualifies as a
65 hazardous condition pursuant to the "Lee County Hazardous Walking Work Sheet"
66 as approved by the Board.
67
- 68 (6) Students may be required to travel up to 1.5 miles to a designated stop. The most
69 direct traveled route measures the 1.5-mile distance to and from the bus stop. Such
70 distance shall be measured from the assigned bus stop. The pedestrian entry point
71 of the residence shall be where private property meets the public right-of-way. The
72 District shall determine the shortest pedestrian route whether or not it is accessible
73 to motor vehicle traffic.
74
- 75 (7) Students living within private gated residential developments or on private roads
76 shall be required to use a bus stop on a public road near their developments. Bus
77 stops may be established inside a "gated community" if it is determined by the
78 Transportation Department that there are no safe locations close to the entrance or
79 exit of such "gated community" to establish a safe school bus stop.
80
- 81 (8) Curb-to-curb student pick-ups and drop-offs shall only be made for the following
82 categories of students:
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- 84 (a) Teenage parents with their children when necessary for medical reasons and
85 documented by a physician's written statement.
86
- 87 (b) Others, if designated, in an Individual Education Plan (IEP).
88
- 89 (9) Siblings of students receiving special transportation (e.g., ESE, shuttles) shall not
90 be allowed to ride the special transportation.

91 (10) School bus routing shall be done using the following general guidelines:

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93 (a) Stops shall be planned no closer than .5 of a mile apart, unless otherwise
94 dictated by safety concerns.

95

96 (b) Stops shall be planned so that no more than 20 students are assigned to any
97 stop.

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99 (c) Stops shall not be established or relocated within 1,000 feet of the residence
100 of a convicted sexual offender when the School District has received notice
101 of such residence from the Florida Department of Corrections. Stops shall be
102 reviewed each time notification is received from the Florida Department of
103 Corrections of the location of residences of sexual offenders who have been
104 released and or/ each time an inquiry is received regarding the residence of
105 a convicted sexual offender.

106

107 (d) Maximum loads on school buses shall be as follows, except on very short
108 routes or where distance makes adding a bus economically unfeasible:

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	<u>65-passenger bus</u>	<u>77-passenger bus</u>	
110			
111			
112	High School	44 students	52 students
113	Middle School	50 students	60 students
114	Elementary School	60 students	71 students

115

116 (e) Where students with special needs are riding a regular education bus,
117 reasonable accommodations shall be made for the special needs of the
118 student.

119

120 (11) Isolated Transportation

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122 When it is impractical to provide bus transportation for reasons of isolation from
123 regular school bus routes to the school of assignment, a parent or guardian
124 transporting the student may be authorized by the School Board to be reimbursed at
125 the rate provided by law. To qualify, the student must live in an isolated area that is
126 more than 1.5 miles from the closest designated school bus stop, or 2.0 miles from
127 the student's assigned school. Such distance shall be measured from the closest
128 pedestrian entry point of the property where the student resides (if the residence is
129 located on a publicly maintained road, street or thoroughfare), or from the point
130 where the private road or gated community access road where the student resides
131 intersects the closest public way, to the closest pedestrian access point of the
132 assigned school building or closest designated bus stop. The pedestrian entry point
133 of the residence shall be where private property meets the public right-of-way. The
134 District shall determine the shortest pedestrian route whether or not it is accessible
135 to motor vehicle traffic.

136 (12) A Transportation Review Committee (TRC) shall be formed to hear any request of
137 individual concern caused by unusual situations or hardships. The committee shall
138 consist of:

- 139
- 140 (a) Director of Transportation.
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 - 142 (b) One Principal – Elementary or Middle School.
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 - 144 (c) One representative from each School Choice Zone elected by the District
145 Advisory Council.
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 - 147 (d) Transportation Safety Supervisor.
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 - 149 (e) One Local Law Enforcement Officer.
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151 The TRC shall meet biweekly, as needed, to consider requests for exceptions to
152 this administrative regulation.

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155 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 947.1405(7), 1001.42, 1001.43, 1003.54, 1006.21,
156 1003.31, 1006.231, F.S. and SBER 6A-3.001, 6A-3.0121
157 and 6A-3.017(11)

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