

Transportation**Definitions**

1. "School transportation" means the procedure, program, or implemented plan by which a student is transported to and/or from school from his/her residence or the assigned bus stop at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved and maintained by the municipality or the State of Connecticut, or private roads approved pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes.
2. "Walking Distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student's residence and his/her school from a point at the curb or edge of a public road or private road nearest the student's residence to a point at the entrance of the school, or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred (100) feet of the school building entrance or the bus pickup area, or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus or vehicle embarkation point (bus stop) established by the Bethany Board of Education (Board).
3. "One-quarter mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement of at least 1,320 feet but not more than 1,320 feet.
4. "One-half mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement of at least 2,640 feet but not more than 2,640 feet.
5. "Hazard" means a thing or condition, as prescribed in this policy under "Hazardous Conditions" that affect the safety of students walking to or from school and/or to or from a designated bus pick-up area.
6. "Sidewalk" means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three (3) feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area, or fencing; apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
7. "Raised walk area" means a portion of the landscape right of way approximately three (3) feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area or fencing; apart from and independent of any painted safety markings along the street pavement.
8. "Student" means any individual of school age enrolled in a public school located within the Bethany Public School District (District).
9. "Walking route" means the route that the student is expected to travel between his/her residence to and from school and/or an assigned bus stop.
10. "Bus stop" shall be defined as a geographical location designated by the Superintendent or his/her designee where students can safely wait for purposes of embarking or disembarking a school bus.

Duties of the Superintendent

The Superintendent and Transportation Coordinator shall do the following:

- A. Determine eligibility for school transportation in accordance with these guidelines and Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes and in compliance with applicable portions of the Every Student Succeeds Act pertaining to homeless students and school choice.
- B. Establish school transportation routes and designate locations for pick-up areas (bus stops).
- C. Routes shall equalize, as nearly as possible, the length of routes and busloads as close to bus capacity as possible. Generally, bus routes shall begin no earlier than sixty (60) minutes before the start of a school day and shall not be in transit from school more than sixty (60) minutes at the end of a school day.
- D. Develop, circulate, and enforce codes of behavior for those children who are transported to and from school via school transportation.
- E. Develop procedures for responding to requests pertaining to matters of school transportation or other school accommodations.
- F. Give due consideration to requests for extension of school transportation service.
- G. Perform all other duties and responsibilities related to the furnishing of school accommodations by school transportation or otherwise in a manner consistent with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes or these guidelines.

Provision of Transportation

In determining the provision of transportation for resident public school students, the following guidelines regarding walking distances will be considered. Distance measurements will be based on the most direct route from the student'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.

Grade	Limit
Pre-Kindergarten	¼ mile
Kindergarten	¼ mile
1 through 6	½ mile

Students living within the stated distance limits will receive transportation when, in the opinion of the Superintendent or his/her designee, it is in the best interests of the District to provide transportation.

Access to Bus Stops/Transportation

Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring the safety of their children up until the point when students board the school bus or other school-provided transportation and after students get off the bus after school. This responsibility includes the selection of walking routes to/from any bus stop and/or the school building, compliance with pandemic/epidemic related safety precautions at the bus stop and along walking routes, and the provision of supervision that is appropriate to the student's age, maturity, and conditions along the walking route and/or at the bus stop at all times.

Given that bus pick up times may vary, the Board expects that parents/guardians will ensure that their children arrive at the bus stop in advance of any scheduled pick up time. Bus pick/up drop off times and routes may change during the school year in connection with a pandemic/epidemic public health conditions. The Board will notify parents/guardians in advance of such changes.

STUDENTS

Regulation 5131(c)

Hazardous Conditions

The Superintendent and Transportation Coordinator shall consider the following guidelines for hazardous conditions when making decisions regarding the transportation of children:

1. Except as provided in Paragraph 7 of this Section, a street or road, along a designated walking route to or from school and/or to or from a designated bus pick up area, having an adjacent or parallel sidewalk or raised walk area shall be deemed hazardous when any one of the following conditions exist:
 - a. For pupils under age ten (10) or enrolled in grades Pre-K through 3:
 - i. the absence of a pedestrian crossing light or crossing guard where three (3) or more streets intersect, and a pupil is expected to cross the street; OR
 - ii. street crossings 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 (60) vehicles per hour at the intersection, and a pupil is expected to cross the street.
 - b. For pupils over age ten (10) or enrolled in grades 4 through 6, the absence of a traffic light or stop signs or crossing guard at an intersection where three (3) or more streets intersect which has a traffic count which exceeds ninety (90) vehicles per hour during the time that pupils are walking to or from school, and such pupils are expected to cross the street;
 - c. For all pupils:
 - i. any street, road, or highway with speed limits in excess of forty (40) miles per hour which does 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; OR
 - ii. the usual or frequent presence of any nuisance such as open manholes, 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 areas at speeds in excess of five (5) miles per hour, and the like, including such nuisances which are hazardous or attractive to children.
2. Any street, road, or highway along a designated walking route to or from school and/or to or from a designated bus pick up area that has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if any one of the following conditions exists:
 - a. For pupils under age ten (10) or enrolled in grade Pre-K through 3:
 - i. any street, road, or highway possessing a traffic count of sixty (60) or more vehicles per hour at the time that pupils are walking to or from school; OR
 - ii. any street, road, or highway possessing a speed limit in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour.

- b. For all pupils:
 - i. the presence of man-made hazards including nuisances, as stated in 1(c)(ii) above; OR
 - ii. any roadway available to vehicles that does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty-two (22) feet; OR
 - iii. any roadway available to vehicles that, when plowed free of snow accumulations, does not have a minimum width of approximately twenty feet; OR
 - iv. any street, road, or highway where the line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits does not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Drivers Manual or Department of Transportation, Division of Design Standard, or other reasonable standard.
- 3. For pupils in grades Pre-K through 4, the following conditions shall be deemed hazardous:
 - a. a lake, pond, stream, culvert, waterway, or bridge shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water; OR
 - b. any area adjacent to a roadway, sidewalk, or bridge, along a designated walking route to or from school and/or to or from a designated bus pick up area, having a drop of three (3) or more feet per four (4) feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier.
- 4. For pupils in grades Pre-K through 6, walking to or from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise or any time one-half (1/2) hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous.
- 5. For all students, walking along any street, road, walkway, sidewalk, or path designated as a walking route 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.
- 6. It shall not be a “hazard” or “hazardous condition” for a pupil whose residence abuts a public street, road, or highway to:
 - a. wait for the bus on the private property where the pupil resides for the school bus until the school bus’s flashing red lights are activated to stop traffic so that the student can enter onto or cross the public street, road, or highway to get on a school bus; OR
 - b. exit a school bus that is stopped on the public street, road, or highway, when the bus’s flashing red lights are activated to stop traffic so that the pupil can enter onto or cross such street, road, or highway to access the private property where the pupil resides.

Transportation Routes and Services

By mid-August each year, student school bus schedules and stops will be developed by the Transportation Coordinator. Bus routes will be published on the District website and in a local newspaper prior to the opening of school.

Students shall be required to walk reasonable distances, up to one-half (1/2) mile for grades 1 through 6 and one-quarter (1/4) mile for kindergarten students, to the bus stop to which they have been assigned. Distances to the assigned bus stop shall not include private driveways or rights-of-way.

STUDENTS

Regulation 5131(e)

The required walking distance for a student with a disability may be adjusted as necessary to meet the individual needs of that child in accordance with state and federal procedures and requirements.

If in the judgment of the driver and administration, road conditions present a hazard as a result of weather, washouts, floods, construction, accident, etc. the route may be altered until the situation has been corrected.

Bus Stop Changes

The safety and security of all students is paramount. Neither the Superintendent, Transportation Coordinator nor the Board shall extend or alter a bus route to accommodate someone's personal convenience.

All school buses have an approved seating capacity which cannot be exceeded. Because school buses are scheduled for maximum use of seated capacity, students must ride to and from school on buses to which they are assigned.

An exception will only be made for permanent and consistent home care/childcare arrangements. Childcare arrangements must be made in writing to the Transportation Coordinator.

If an emergency situation arises and a student needs to take a different bus, the parent/guardian must contact Transportation Coordinator, Troy Sorensen at csorensenllc@gmail.com or (203) 298-4864.

Any other bus changes will not be allowed.

Reporting Concerns

The following steps will be followed regarding transportation concerns:

Step 1

Email the BCS Transportation Coordinator, Troy Sorensen at csorensenllc@gmail.com. An appropriate investigation and decision will be completed in a timely manner.

Step 2

Parent/Guardian may submit a written appeal of the Transportation Coordinator's decision to the BCS Transportation Committee. The committee will convene within ten (10) business days from receipt of the letter to review the appeal. The parent/guardian will be notified of the committee's decision in writing.

Step 3

Parent/Guardian may submit a written appeal of the BCS Transportation Committee's decision to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will investigate and communicate the decision to the parent/guardian.

Step 4

Parent/Guardian may submit a written appeal of the Superintendent's decision to the Bethany Board of Education Transportation Committee.

Step 5

Parent/Guardian may submit a written appeal of the Bethany Board of Education Transportation Committee's decision to the Board of Education Committee of the Whole.

STUDENTS

Regulation 5131(f)

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-186
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-187
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220c
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221c
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-273a
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-280a
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-281
Connecticut General Statutes § 14-275
Connecticut General Statutes § 14-275b
Connecticut General Statutes § 14-275c
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, 42 U.S.C., §§ 11431-11435

Regulation approved: September 9, 1991
Regulation revised: January 10, 2001
Regulation revised: May 9, 2012
Regulation revised: May 5, 2016
Regulation revised: August 1, 2018
Regulation revised: November 15, 2019
Regulation revised: August 12, 2020
Regulation revised: December 14, 2022

Source: Shipman & BPSD