

Administrative Procedures for Policy # 4201 (Support Services) Regarding Student Transportation Eligibility for Student Transportation

I. Definitions

- A. Authorized passengers - those individuals who are approved to use transportation services provided by the Board. It shall be deemed to include, but be limited to, students and teachers of Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) and school vehicle contractors.
- B. Board –Board of Education of Education of Calvert County
- C. Director of Transportation- the individual responsible for student transportation for Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS)
- D. Driver – a certified school vehicle/bus driver or taxi driver
- E. Geographical Attendance Area – the current school attendance boundaries approved by the Board of Education that are used to determine the home school of attendance for students
- F. Home School – the school that is located within the Board of Education’s approved geographic attendance area for a specific address or residence
- G. Parent – a student’s biological or adoptive parent, legal guardian, or an individual who is legally responsible for a child’s welfare.
- H. School - any educational facility
- I. School Vehicle/Bus - a vehicle/bus that meets all federal and state laws, rules and regulations, Board policies, and any other requirements and is used for the purpose of transporting CCPS students to and from school.
- J. School Day - a regularly scheduled day of classes for all students, as approved by the Board.
- K. School Vehicle/Bus – a motorized mode of transportation that meets all federal and state laws/regulations, as well as local Board rules, policies, procedures, requirements related to transporting CCPS students to/from school
- L. School year - the period of time students must be transported to/from school
- M. Student - an individual legally enrolled in CCPS or who is placed in another school by the Superintendent or designee or an IEP team
- N. Student with disabilities - a student who, for the purposes of transportation services, is determined by an IEP team to have special transportation needs in accordance with federal and state laws, rules, and/or regulations.
- O. Superintendent - the Superintendent of Calvert County Public Schools

- P. Transportation Services - transportation provided by the Board to students and authorized passengers
- II. Eligibility
- A. Students are eligible for transportation services to and from their home school or the school in which they are placed by the Superintendent/designee or an IEP team during the school year provided they meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Elementary school students must reside outside a radius of one-half mile from their assigned school
 - 2. Secondary school students must reside outside a radius of one mile from their assigned school
 - B. Distance from the assigned school shall be measured along the most direct traveled route from the end of the driveway of the student's residence to the nearest pedestrian or vehicular entrance of the assigned school. The "traveled route" can include roads and/or walkways.
 - 1. Exceptions to Distance Requirements
 - a. Requests for exceptions to the distance requirements above may be made in writing to the Director of Transportation only in instances where unsafe conditions are deemed to exist
 - b. The final decision on whether an unsafe condition exists shall be made at the sole discretion of the Director of Transportation or designee
 - c. The following conditions shall create a presumption of unsafe conditions, unless the Director or designee concludes otherwise:
 - 1) When students do not have a walkway between their residence and their assigned school which is regularly traveled by walkers in the area, and the community in which the student resides is not adjacent to school grounds
 - 2) When students are required to walk more than one-fourth mile along a road having a posted speed limit in excess of 45 miles per hour
 - 3) When students are required to cross a bridge, overpass, or roadway with a posted speed limit in excess of 45 miles per hour which does not have an automatic signaling device for pedestrian crossings
- III. Transportation services for students with disabilities and for students assigned to regional or county instructional programs
- A. The scope, means, and mode of transportation services to be provided to students with disabilities shall be determined on a case by case basis in coordination with the Individual Education Plan (IEP) Committee in charge of the special education placement for the student in question and in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, policies, and procedures

- B. Adults, except persons between the ages of 18 to 21, who are currently enrolled in an approved regular or special daytime program, and parents who are participating in special needs parent/infant programs, may not be provided transportation
- C. Transportation services will be initiated or adjusted within four (4) school days of the receipt of all information pertinent to safe transportation of a student with a disability
- D. Transportation services will be initiated or adjusted within four (4) school days of the receipt of all information pertinent to safe transportation for students who are not disabled, but who may also be transported on route buses for attendance at regional or county instructional programs. These programs include, but are not limited to, regional Alternative Education, county Alternative Education and English Language Learner programs
- E. Transportation services will be initiated or adjusted within four (4) school days of the receipt of all information pertinent to safe transportation for students who are not disabled, but who may also be transported on route buses for attendance at the home school for those students designated as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act
- F. When certain conditions exist, the Director of Transportation or designee may approve the transportation of no more than one student at one time in an approved taxi. The taxi driver must have completed an application, undergo finger-printing so a criminal background record-check may be completed, provide a copy of their Motor Vehicle Administration driving record, submit and pass a pre-employment drug test, submit to random drug tests, and attend annual in-service training authorized by the school system
 - 1. The Director of Transportation or designee may approve the use of taxis provided by other local education agencies as an available resource
- G. For a student whose IEP designates transportation as a requirement and the Director of Transportation and the Director of Special Education have approved for the parent to provide that transportation, the parent shall be reimbursed for mileage only at the rate established by the Internal Revenue Service. This will only apply to the trips from home-to-school or from school-to-home for the student instructional day. There will be no reimbursement for the parent's time
- H. For more specific information about the pick-up and drop-off of students with disabilities, see Procedure 4201.3, Section II.B

IV. Other Transportation Services

- A. The Superintendent/designee, in his/her sole discretion, may authorize transportation services for students for other school programs deemed to be in the best interest of the students and school system
 - 1. The Director of Transportation may authorize transportation on school vehicles and taxis provided by other Local Education Agencies

V. Denial of Transportation Services

- A. Transportation services for students are a privilege and not a right. A student may be denied transportation services on a temporary or permanent basis when the student:

1. Fails to comply with any law, rule, regulation, policy, procedure or the Code of Student Conduct
 2. Is deemed to jeopardize the health, safety or welfare of himself/herself or others
 3. Is deemed to jeopardize the safe operation of the school vehicle/bus
- B. The denial of transportation services shall be handled in accordance with the Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Code of Conduct provisions for Student Bus Behavior and/or the School Bus Rules
- C. The student's parent will be responsible for providing transportation to and from school for the period when transportation services are denied so the student meets the compulsory school attendance requirement
1. The school vehicle/bus driver can suspend a student for one (1) day only if the driver notifies the parent as well as the school principal of the date of the suspension. The driver must complete and submit a Bus Behavior Referral Form