

REGULATION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: Policy EAA

Responsible Office: TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

ELIGIBLE RIDERS

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for eligible student transportation services for Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) and to ensure compliance with Maryland laws and regulations.

B. BACKGROUND

The Supervisor of Transportation shall be responsible for operational issues related to all aspects of transportation services. These services shall be provided in accordance with the procedures identified in Section D below.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. ***Transportation for eligible riders*** – the travel to and from school and between schools for instructional programs.
2. ***Eligible riders*** – students who meet the distance requirements from their respective schools to allow transportation services, students who received out of area transfers for daycare with a documented hardship (effective beginning in the 2016-17 school year), or who have received an exception from the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee for extraordinary circumstances that warrant bus transportation, such as disabled students or students who must use hazardous roads or routes on the way to and from school.
3. ***Suitable walkway*** – a sidewalk or path of adequate width over which students could walk without being required to step on to the traveled portion of the road surface.
4. ***Isolated wooded area*** – any location contiguous to a publicly used road, or a private road deeded by the public where a student must walk in excess of three-tenths of a mile where there are woods between residences or active business areas without a suitable walkway.

D. PROCEDURES

Transportation from established bus stops shall be provided to:

1. Prekindergarten students who live within the school's attendance area and reside in excess of one-half mile from their attending school by the nearest accessible route;
2. Kindergarten students who live within the school's attendance area and reside in excess of one-half mile from the assigned school;
3. All other elementary school students who live within the school's attendance area and reside more than one mile from their assigned schools by the nearest accessible route and all middle and high school students who reside more than one-and one-half miles from their assigned schools by the nearest accessible route;
4. Kindergarten students residing within one-half mile of their assigned schools, elementary school students residing within one mile of their assigned schools and secondary school students residing within one and one-half mile of their assigned schools when a *suitable walkway* between their homes and their assigned schools is not available. This provision will not apply when:
 - a. The residential community is adjacent to the school grounds or has little or no transient traffic; or
 - b. The volume of traffic is non-hazardous during the time students walk to and from school as determined by a joint study conducted by the County Traffic Engineering Division, the Traffic Safety Division of the County Police Department, and the Transportation Division of AACPS.
5. Students who would otherwise be required to walk more than three tenths of a mile to or from school along a road having shoulder of less than three feet and a posted speed limit in excess of 40 miles per hour.
6. Students who would otherwise be required to walk across a divided state highway or any divided highway involving a safety hazard as determined by the Transportation Division.
7. Students who would otherwise be required to walk across an active high-speed, at-grade railroad crossing or a bridge, tunnel, or overpass having inadequate walkways.

8. Students who would otherwise be required to walk through or along an *isolated wooded area* when going to and from school.
9. The distance measurement shall be performed by using the most direct route from the school's closest facility entrance to the closest property line at the identified residence location, using a mechanical measuring distance wheel which measures the distance traversed in feet.
10. AACPS shall provide transportation between schools and job sites for students who attend special schools (as defined by AACPS) who are enrolled in work-study programs during designated work-study hours.
11. Volunteer aides and employees of the Board may ride buses to and from school with written permission of the Supervisor of Transportation when space is available.

Regulation History: *Developed by Superintendent 12/17/14,
Reviewed by Board of Education 12/17/14,
Issued 03/18/15.*

Note previous regulation history: Replaces AR 700.01, issued 09/06/72, revised 03/07/90, and 06/20/12