

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: EA, EA-RA, EAA

Responsible Office: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

ELIGIBLE RIDERS

A. PURPOSE

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

B. BACKGROUND

In accordance with State law, a county governing body, at its own expense, may provide transportation for public school students. AACPS is responsible for the safe transportation of students who live outside of the designated walking zones for their assigned schools and other eligible students. The Supervisor of Transportation is responsible for operational issues related to all aspects of transportation services.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. ***Transportation for Eligible Riders*** – the travel to and from school and between schools for instructional programs.
2. ***Eligible Riders*** – students who:
 - a. Meet the distance requirements from their respective schools to receive transportation services;
 - b. Received out-of-area transfers for daycare with a documented hardship; or
 - c. Received an exception from the Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent’s designee for extraordinary circumstances that warrant bus transportation, such as 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 dedicated by deed for use 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

1. Transportation from established bus stops shall be provided to:
 - a. Prekindergarten students who live within the school’s attendance area and reside in excess of one-half mile from their assigned school by the nearest accessible route.
 - b. Kindergarten students who live within the school’s attendance area and reside in excess of one-half mile from their assigned school by the nearest accessible route.
 - c. All other elementary school students who live within the school’s attendance area and reside more than one mile from their assigned school by the nearest accessible route.
 - d. All middle and high school students who live within the school’s attendance area and reside more than one-and one-half miles from their assigned schools by the nearest accessible route.
 - e. Kindergarten students residing within one-half mile of their assigned schools, elementary school students residing within one mile of their assigned schools, and middle and high school students residing within one and one-half mile of their assigned schools when a suitable walkway between their residence and their assigned schools is not available. This provision will not apply when:
 - i. The residential community is adjacent to the school grounds or has little or no transient traffic; or
 - ii. 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 Anne Arundel County Traffic Engineering Division, the Traffic Safety Section of the Anne Arundel County Police Department, and the Transportation Office of AACPS.
 - f. Students who would otherwise be required to walk more than three-tenths of a mile to or from school along a road that has a shoulder of less than three feet and a posted speed limit in excess of 40 miles per hour.
 - g. 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 Office.

