

## **Student Bus Transportation**

It is the Board's intent that transportation be scheduled and routed in a way that best serves the educational interests of students and the operations of the schools.

Recognizing RSU 40's primary responsibility to maximize student safety, school bus stops will be established and published by August 31<sup>st</sup>, or prior to the start of school whichever occurs first each year. Students assigned to each stop are expected to be at that bus stop at the designated time. It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to arrange for getting the student to the bus stop before the scheduled pick up.

RSU 40 will provide transportation for all special education students, homeless students, and others as prescribed by law or deemed advisable by the Board.

Students assigned to a bus are expected to ride from their designated bus stop to school and from school to their designated bus stop. Any exception to this requires written permission signed by a parent/guardian and approved by the Superintendent/designee in consultation with the Director of Transportation. Parents/guardians should submit requests at least 24 hours prior to the requested change

If possible, students will be loaded and unloaded so that it is not necessary for them to cross a main highway to reach their homes.

School buses will operate only on state/town approved or maintained roads and may not enter private ways.

Requests to add service on RSU 40 district roads should be made in writing to the Superintendent who, with the Director of Transportation, will set the proposed bus routes for the upcoming school year. Once these routes have been approved and published, they may not be changed by any driver without consulting with the Director of Transportation.

Each fall drivers will be surveyed and routes checked by the Director of Transportation to determine whether service should be revised, dropped or added.

### **Activity Bus**

As practicable, and within budgetary limitations, RSU 40 will operate an activity bus ("late bus") to provide limited transportation for middle school and high school students who stay late for school-sponsored activities. The routes will not replicate normal runs, but will provide service to central locations within each town served by RSU 40. It will be the parents' responsibility to provide transportation once the student leaves the bus at the

designated drop-off location.

The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for establishing activity bus routes and reviewing/revising them on an annual basis.

**Career and Technical Education Transportation**

RSU 40 is responsible for the transportation of enrolled students from RSU 40 to Region 8 career and technical education facilities and return.

**Minimum Training Requirements for Student Riding Safety Practices**

Once each semester (twice per school year) each student transported to or from home and school and related events in a school bus must be instructed in riding safety practices, proper loading and unloading techniques, and proper street crossing to and from school bus stops. RSU 40 will keep records of student riding safety instruction training.

Once each semester (twice per school year) each student transported to or from home and school and related events in a school bus must participate in supervised school bus emergency evacuation drills. RSU 40 will keep records of emergency evacuation drills.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S. § 5401  
Department of Education Rule Chapter 81

Cross Reference: EEAEA - Bus Driver Requirements, Training and Responsibilities  
EEAEC - Student Conduct on Buses

Adopted: November 1, 2018