

Answers to Common Questions in Student Transportation

Q: Does my student qualify for transportation?

A: According to Idaho Code 33-1501, no board of trustees shall be required to provide transportation for any pupil living less than 1.5 miles from the nearest appropriate school. (Exception, see Safety Busing) Also, according to Idaho Code 33-1502, no board of trustees shall be required to route school buses or other passenger equipment over any road not maintained as part of a highway district, county, state or federal highway system, or by the state or national forest service, except that the primary requirements to be observed by the board of trustees are the safety and adequate protection of the health of the pupils.

Q: Does the State have limits on how far a student must walk to a bus stop?

A: According to Idaho Code 33-1501, a board of trustees may require pupils who live less than 1.5 miles from the nearest established bus stop to walk or provide their own transportation.

Q: What is Safety Busing?

A: Safety Busing is the transportation of pupils that live less than 1.5 miles as provided in Idaho Code 33-1501, when approved by the State Board of Education.

School districts that receive state reimbursement of costs associated with safety busing will re-evaluate all safety busing sites at intervals of at least every three years using the local board adopted measuring or scoring instrument. In order to qualify for reimbursement, the local school board will, by official action, approve the initial safety busing request and allow the students in question to be transported before the application is sent to the state.

Q: Can the school bus drop off or pick up my student at a day care facility?

A: Under Idaho Code 33-1102, a day care center, family day care home, or a group day care facility, may substitute for the student's residence for student transportation to and from school. School districts may not transport students between child care facilities and home.

Q: Through open enrollment, I choose to send my student to an alternate school within another district or a school out of my attendance zone within my home district. Does my student qualify for transportation?

A: According to Idaho Code 33-1402, whenever the parent or guardian of any pupil determines that it is in the best interest of the pupil to attend a school within another district, or to attend another school within the home district, the student may be transferred to and attend the selected school, subject to the provisions of this section and section 33-1404. Whenever any student enrolls in and attends a school outside the district within which the parent or guardian resides, the parent or guardian shall be responsible for transporting the pupil to and from the school or to an appropriate bus stop within the receiving district.

Q: How is discipline handled on the school bus?

A: According to Idaho Code 33-512, the board of trustees of each school district shall have the following powers and duties: To prescribe rules for the disciplining of unruly or insubordinate pupils, including rules on student harassment, intimidation and bullying, such rules to be included in a district discipline code adopted by the board of trustees and a summarized version thereof to be provided at the beginning of each year to the teachers and students in the district in a manner consistent with the student's age, grade and level of academic achievement.

Q: Who determines bus stop locations and routing scheme?

A: According to 33-1502, Idaho Statutes, whenever practical, routes shall be so established that no bus stop shall be more than 1.5 miles from the intersection of the driveway of the home of any pupil otherwise eligible for transportation and the nearest public road: except that no board of trustees shall be required to route school buses or other passenger equipment over any road not maintained as part of a highway district, county, state or federal highway system, or by the state or national forest service; except, that the primary requirements to be observed by the board of trustees are the safety and adequate protection of the health of the pupils.

Q: Does the state have limits on how long a bus ride can be for students?

A: There is currently nothing in Idaho Code that addresses the length of school bus rides.

Q: What is a non-transportation zone, and who determines the location of a non-transportation zone?

A: According to Idaho Code 33-1502, the board of trustees of each school district may establish and alter bus routes and non-transportation zones. Such routes and zones shall be determined for each year not later than the regular August meeting of the board; but nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the board in altering such routes or zones when change in the condition of the roads, or in the number of pupils being transported would justify such alteration.

A non-transportation zone shall comprise an area of a school district designated by the board of trustees which is impracticable, by reason of sparsity of pupils, remoteness, or condition of roads, to serve by established bus routes.

Q: What is the correct procedure to follow to address a transportation challenge?

A: First, call your local school district office (or is the supervisor at the school???) and ask to speak with the Transportation Supervisor. If you feel that your topics are not being addressed in a timely manner, call the principal of your school. If you still need to speak with someone after that, you can contact the district superintendent's office or your school board trustee. The local school district should have contact information for the school board trustees on hand.