



## Student Transportation Policy

The Achievement School District (ASD) desires to ensure a safe and cost-effective transportation system is made available for all eligible students to and from school and school-sponsored activities.

The ASD is authorized to provide transportation services to and from school at no cost for eligible students. The provision of such services, although not required for students other than those receiving special education services as determined by a child's individualized education program (IEP), is provided as a service to the general population in accordance with applicable federal and State laws (T.C.A. §§ 49-6-2100 et. seq. and corresponding State Board of Education Rules). Criteria for bus ridership eligibility for the general population are determined by the ASD. Student use of transportation provided by the ASD is a privilege and continued eligibility to use the transportation services provided may be suspended and/or revoked for violation of applicable policies and rules (T.C.A. § 49-6-3401).

### **Eligibility**

The following resident students are eligible for transportation on school buses:

- To and from a Student's Zoned School
  - All students enrolled in elementary schools who reside one and one-half (1 ½) miles or more from their zoned/assigned school
  - All students enrolled in middle or high schools who reside two (2) miles or more from their zoned/assigned school
  - Students receiving special education services who have a current IEP indicating a need for special transportation services, regardless of distance
  - Students living within the designated miles for their assigned schools with a 504 plan that indicates a need for student transportation as verified by a physician (a completed Student Information Form must be on file at the school).
  - Students who reside in an area where traffic or other conditions make walking to and from school hazardous. Hazardous areas, as determined annually by an analysis conducted by the office responsible for student transportation services, shall be based on the following conditions:
    - Age of student
    - Traffic volume and/or speed
    - Roadway design/walkway conditions (i.e. curvy roads, sidewalks, ditches)
    - Railroad tracks and crossings
    - River or waterway crossings
    - Other conditions as deemed appropriate



- To and From a School of Choice (any ASD neighborhood school or charter)
  - Parents/students electing to attend an ASD School not in their attendance zone, but are zoned to a “Priority School” (a school in the bottom 5% in the state of TN), can do so. However, parents shall be responsible for their child’s transportation to and from the School of Choice (unless transportation is already being provided).
  - School of Choice transportation is defined as a student getting to a bus stop on an existing bus route where the bus, having room for the student, is already scheduled to go to a designated school(s). Students attending a School of Choice may be transported by the bus, as tag-along transportation, upon completion of the district’s School Choice transportation request form annually, and under the following conditions:
    - The student can get to an existing bus stop by the established pick up time for a bus already going to the School of Choice;
    - This School of Choice transportation would not cause a student overload on the bus or otherwise result in any additional cost to the district;
    - This School of Choice transportation is merely a courtesy based on the aforementioned conditions. If any of these conditions change, tag-along transportation shall automatically terminate. The District will attempt to provide two (2) weeks’ notice to parents prior to such termination when possible;
    - The District’s School of Choice transportation request form shall state that the School of Choice transportation is merely a courtesy and a privilege, subject to termination if any of the above conditions change
- To and from an ASD “new start” Charter School
  - Students enrolled in any ASD “new start” Charter School where transportation is offered and students are able to get to an existing bus stop on an existing bus route
    - The provision for transportation is not an obligation for ASD “new start” charter schools and is based on each charter school’s discretion and financial ability
- To and From School-Sponsored Activities
  - All students belonging to a class or activity group for which a field trip has been scheduled and for which transportation is to be provided, paid for, and approved by each school

The following adults are eligible for transportation on school buses:

School employees in the line of duty and designated chaperones. This includes, but is not limited to drivers, driver trainees, bus monitors, mechanics, the

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Transportation Director; Director of Operations and/or other administrators when observing, supervising or acting as chaperones; teachers when supervising or chaperoning student groups; and parents or other adults when authorized as chaperones of a student group.

### **Homeless Transportation Procedures**

By federal law, students who lose their homes shall continue in the building they attend for that entire school year. Transportation must be provided, within reason, if requested.

Transportation should be from a temporary residence, shelter or transitional housing.

Foster placement also qualifies under the law.

Contact the Manager of Student Access and Support Services to begin the process who will then, in turn, notify the coordinator for transportation services to set up transportation.

It is important to notify all parties involved of any changes to the family's housing status.

### **Alternative Education Transportation Procedures** *\*(Added as part of revision)*

When students are remanded to an alternative education school that are not within the Achievement School District, the sending school should ensure transportation accommodations have been made.

The receiving alternative school and/or district may have transportation services available, e.g., in the form of district school bus services with routes and schedules based on student addresses (elementary school) or bus passes through a local transit authority (middle and high schools). Access to those transportation services can be requested through the Manager of Student Access and Support Services. The manager will ensure the receiving school has the student information and arrange for transportation.

The sending school may also identify and make available other options for transportation services, including bus passes or parent transportation for middle and high schools.