

CHAPTER 8.00 - AUXILIARY SERVICES

BUS ROUTES

8.32

- (1) Designation of Bus Routes. The Superintendent, with the assistance of the Supervisor of Transportation, shall make recommendations relative to the establishment of bus routes and stops. After considering the recommendations of the Superintendent, the School Board shall designate the bus route to be traveled regularly by each school bus and each such route shall meet the following requirements.
 - (a) Each route shall be planned, scheduled, and adjusted to the capacity of the bus and, insofar as practicable, the normal capacity of each bus shall be used, without standees, to serve students whose homes are beyond a reasonable walking distance from the school center to which they are assigned, except as otherwise provided by law and regulations. Any student living outside an area prescribed by the School Board shall not ride a school bus except upon special authorization of the School Board.
 - (b) Each route shall serve regularly only students whose homes are beyond a reasonable walking distance to the nearest appropriate school.
 - (c) Any route served by a school bus designated by the School Board shall be restricted to those areas where road conditions, the capacity of bridges and the number of students to be served make such service economically feasible and practical.
 - (d) A route shall not be extended for the purpose of accommodating students whose homes are within a reasonable walking distance or a shorter or more economical route which is available to serve the student.
 - (e) School bus routes shall, insofar as possible be restricted to main truck lines operated on roads maintained by the county or the state and safe and satisfactory for the operation of the bus. The routes shall further be restricted to areas where the number of students to be served makes service practicable and economically feasible, and to require the minimum time within the desired limits for any student in travel time to and from school. Any route shall be:
 - (i) A road which is free from safety hazards passable under all weather conditions.

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- (ii) Of sufficient width so that when possible tree limbs, bushes and similar hazards shall not exist.
 - (iii) A road with at least twelve feet (12') over-head clearance from ground level.
 - (iv) Free of obstructions and shall have no bridge which is inadequate to support the weight of the bus when loaded to capacity.
 - (f) On any route where it is necessary for the bus to turn around, a suitable turning area shall be available.
 - (g) Where possible, student loading and unloading stops shall not be established less than six hundred sixty feet (660) apart for students in grades Pre-K and Kindergarten or less than one thousand (1,000) feet apart for students in grades 1-12 and shall be established so students from several homes can meet at a central point for a group pick up, unless the welfare of the children dictates otherwise. Buses shall make only authorized, regularly scheduled stops. Unscheduled stops for the convenience of the school bus operator or student and not of an emergency nature concerned with the health and safety of the school bus operator and students shall be considered in violation of School Board policy.
 - (h) The location of each bus stop will conform to the requirements of Florida Statutes.
- (2) Spur Routes. A spur route from the main trunk route shall be considered when one or more of the following conditions are present:
- (a) The spur route shall be in excess of two-tenths (.2) of a mile from the main trunk route for elementary students (Pre-K – Highest grade contained in elementary school) and shall be in excess of one-half (.5) of a mile for middle and high school students.
 - (b) An extreme hardship must exist as determined by the School Board and recorded in its official minutes.
 - (c) The road must be safe and satisfactory for the operation of the bus with a satisfactory turn-around area.
 - (d) Such routing of the bus shall not result in poor scheduling, double-tripping, or a hardship on other students.

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- (e) Such routing shall not cause students who board the bus first in the morning to leave home at an unreasonable hour.
- (3) **Change in Routes.** A request for a change in a bus route shall be made to the Superintendent. When data has been collected, the complete information and a recommendation from the Superintendent shall be submitted to the School Board for its consideration. A deviation in a bus route may be made by the Superintendent for good cause; provided, that such deviation is submitted to the School Board for approval at its next regular meeting.
- (4) **Non-transportation zones.** After considering the recommendations of the Superintendent, the School Board shall designate, by map or otherwise, non-transportation zones which shall be composed of areas in the district from which it is unnecessary or impractical to provide transportation services. Non-transportation zones shall be designated annually prior to the opening of school and prior to the designation of bus routes for the ensuing school year.
- (5) **Cooperation with other school districts.** Where it is practical to extend a school bus route to serve any territory located in another school district, the School Board of Washington County shall enter into an agreement with the School Bus of the other school district to provide transportation service to students residing in such adjacent school district. Any such agreement shall be recorded in the official minutes of each School Board. The agreement shall state in detail the responsibility of each School Board for the operation of the school bus and the maintenance of the daily schedule. Whenever a school bus crosses a district line, all rules of the Washington County School Board shall apply to transported students unless otherwise stated in the agreement between the School Boards.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

1001.41; 1001.42, F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED:

947.1405; 1001.43; 1006.21, F.S.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE:

6A-3.0171

HISTORY:

ADOPTED:

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