

SCHOOL BUS SCHEDULING AND ROUTING

I. Generally

The School Board desires to provide the ~~best possible~~ safest and most efficient transportation system in terms of its ability to ~~locate~~ operate bus routes and associated stops within reasonable walking distances for students of all ages. ~~as close as possible to the homes of students.~~

II. Establishment

Bus routes shall be established under the direction of the Superintendent/Designee. The establishment of bus routes shall take into consideration travel time ~~on the road~~, transportation infrastructure, bus capacity, ~~hazardous conditions~~, distribution of students, and other safety factors that the Superintendent/Designee may identify. Student ~~S~~safety ~~of the student~~ shall be the primary consideration.

School bus routes and stops shall be reviewed at least once each year for safety hazards, fuel conservation, and to assure efficient use of buses.

III. Bus Stops

The designation of bus stops shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent/Designee and ~~shall be assigned placed so as to~~ afford ~~provide~~ the maximum safety for students. The determination of safety shall be based upon bus stop ~~road~~ visibility, waiting areas for students, distance from the bus stop to the home, and other factors that the Superintendent/Designee deems pertinent. Elementary students should walk no more than 0.3 miles and middle/high students should walk no more than 0.5 miles from home to the bus stop.

Bus drivers will not permit students to exit the school bus at stops other than the students' assigned bus stops without permission. Parents and school administrators must provide written permission for any student to exit a bus at another student's assigned stop (and on another bus if capacity allows). Exiting buses at an undesignated stop must be pre-approved by the Transportation Department.

IV. Extracurricular Activity Bus Routes

Extracurricular activity bus routes may be operated between the secondary schools and designated regional satellite bus stops. The purpose is to allow students to participate after school hours in activities for which the School Board has approved.

~~IV.~~ V. Route Extensions and Modifications

The Superintendent/Designee may approve extensions and modifications of bus routes for

medical and other reasons only when road conditions are such that the bus can operate safely and efficiently and that the families served shall provide a satisfactory place for the bus to turn around. The Superintendent/Designee may grant exceptions for health or medical reasons only upon the submission of an application which includes a physician's certificate that the student merits special consideration.

VI. School Traffic Control Plans

~~Bus drivers will not permit students to leave the school bus at stops other than the student's regular bus stop unless written permission is granted by the administration of the school.~~

A written vehicular and pedestrian traffic control plan for each school shall be reviewed annually for safety hazards. All new school site plans shall include provisions that promote vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
Amended: August 8, 2002

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, ~~Sections §§~~ 22.1-70, 22.1-76~~8~~; ~~22.1-181~~
8 VAC 20-70-160.

Cross Refs.: School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan