

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Policy Code:

6300

Note: Replaces policy 6321* (formerly EDD) School Bus Routes

The Guilford County Board of Education recognizes that transportation to and from school is an integral part of providing equitable access to student success. The Guilford County Schools provides transportation to eligible students according to North Carolina laws and state board rules with the following goals.

A. GOALS

1. Providing transportation to and from school to eligible students;
2. Making safety a priority in maintaining quality transportation equipment and vehicles;
3. Teaching and expecting students to act in a safe and orderly manner while using school transportation;
4. Planning and providing transportation services efficiently and economically;
5. Recruiting, training and retaining qualified drivers and other staff;
6. Using transportation services to support the types of learning opportunities available to students;
7. Working effectively with schools, students, parents, guardians, private contractors and other governmental agencies in providing transportation services; and
8. Providing courteous service to students and responding promptly and courteously to requests.

B. ELIGIBILITY

According to North Carolina General Statute §115C-246, any student assigned to a school that is one-and-a-half (1.5) miles or more from their residence is eligible for transportation services to and from school. This includes students who are involuntarily assigned to a different school or program located one-and-a-half (1.5) miles or more from their residence, as well as students residing within designated choice school zones within which families may choose from two or more schools. Students who are attending a school other than their zoned school on a voluntary transfer are not eligible for transportation.

A student identified as having special needs or who is experiencing homelessness will be provided with transportation services if entitled to such by federal and state laws and regulations.

In addition, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to make a reasonable effort to provide transportation for certain choice programs in order to provide equitable access to such programs. The availability of transportation shall be communicated during the choice application process.

Also, the Superintendent or designee may consider applications for transportation services for students who live fewer than one-and-a-half (1.5) miles from their schools in the following situations:

1. when factors are present that may endanger the safety of students walking to the school; and
2. when the student is medically certified as unable to walk to and from school or temporarily incapacitated.

C. SERVICE PARAMETERS

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall determine the safest, most appropriate, most cost-effective and efficient method of transportation for individual routes which may include, but is not limited to:

1. Buses driven by GCS employees
2. Contracted bus services
3. Public transportation passes

Students may only ride the bus to which they are assigned, and they will be picked up and dropped off at their assigned bus stop.

Bus routes and stops shall be defined to maximize the efficiency and utilization of transportation services. Bus stops shall be placed no closer than two-tenths (0.2) of a mile apart, unless the transportation department determines that stops must be closer to address a safety hazard. Bus stops shall be within the following radius of a student's home to provide safe, efficient community stops:

1. Three-tenths of a mile (0.3 mile) radius for elementary school students
2. One-half mile (0.5) mile radius for middle and high school students

D. APPLICATIONS

The parent or guardian of any child enrolled in the school system may request bus services to and from their assigned school. Students living within their school's walk zone will not receive transportation services unless it is an unsafe walking environment (for example, a multi-lane highway without a crossing) as determined by a hazard review committee established by the Superintendent or designee. The request should be made through the district website or by submitting the request form to the assigned school. The decision of the hazard review committee is final.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to issue administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-239, -240, -241, -244; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy EXCP-000

Cross References:

Adopted:

Policy Code: 6321* (formerly EDD) School Bus Routes

Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	
SCHOOL BUS ROUTES	6321* (formerly EDD)	
Presented to the Board:	Adopted by the Board:	Revised by the Board:
May 9, 1995	June 13, 1995	Recodified as policy 6321:
		May 10, 2022

The Guilford County Board of Education authorizes the director of transportation to establish, maintain, record and report on school bus routes. The official records repository for bus routes will be the Guilford County Transportation Information Management System. It is further acknowledged by the Board of Education that the director of transportation will, in establishing bus routes, make case by case decisions when nonstate-maintained roadways are included in bus routes. Safety of students and citizens will always be the primary consideration when making any decision on bus routes. Reference: Public School Laws of North Carolina, Article 17, [115C-246b & c](#).

In compliance with federal laws, Guilford County Schools administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law. Refer to the Board of Education's Discrimination Free Environment Policy AC for a complete statement. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Guilford County Schools Compliance Officer, 120 Franklin Boulevard, Greensboro, NC 27401; 336.370.2323.

All Guilford County Schools facilities, both educational and athletic, are tobacco-free learning environments.