

# POLICY

## VERNON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### 8600 TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education shall transport eligible pupils to and from school and school related activities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1 et seq. and Board policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public and nonpublic (and charter, if applicable) school pupils, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

The Board will provide transportation to and from school for public school pupils less than remote from their school in grades 9-12 who live more than 2½ miles from the school they attend.

The Board will provide courtesy transportation for all students who reside less than remote from their school in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5. This courtesy transportation for less than remote students is provided due to the following roads which the Board of Education has determined to be hazardous: Route 565, Route 517, Sammis Road, Drew Road, and Maple Grange Road. These roads are considered hazardous due to:

1. Population Density;
2. Absence of sidewalks;
3. Average vehicle velocity;
4. Roads that winding or have blind curves;
5. Roads with steep inclines and declines;
6. Busy roads that must be crossed to reach the school.

The Board will transport disabled pupils in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:46-1 et seq. and Policy No. 8670.

The Board will approve all bus routes by August of each school year. Bus routes for all non-remote pupils who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes will be designated. The Board will consider, but shall not be limited to, the criteria outlined in N.J.S.A 18A:39-1.5 in determining "Hazardous Routes."

The Board will not be responsible for the transportation of nonresident pupils to or from school, except that transportation to and from school will be provided for homeless children for whom the district is determined to be the district of residence and for homeless children enrolled in this district when no district of residence has been determined.



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The Board will transport resident children who attend a nonpublic or charter school in the State of New Jersey not more than twenty miles from their residence, but not a lesser distance from their residence than that required for the transportation of pupils enrolled in the schools of this district. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2, pupils living more than twenty miles from their nonpublic school are eligible for transportation services when other pupils living within the district, whose residence is less than twenty miles from school, are transported to the same nonpublic school.

Transportation services will be provided in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2(c)2, and this policy to a nonpublic school located outside the State not more than twenty miles from the pupil's home.

Aid in lieu of transportation will be provided to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of nonpublic and charter pupils pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1. When the schools of this district are closed for inclement weather or other conditions, no transportation will be provided for pupils enrolled in any public, nonpublic and/or charter school.

When the Board provides transportation of pupils to and from county vocational schools, schools classified pursuant to Chapter 46 of N.J.S.A. 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and/or when the Board has in the prior year provided payments in lieu of transportation for any nonpublic schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 or the Board cannot provide transportation in the ensuing school year the Board will utilize Sussex County Regional Cooperative for providing cooperative transportation services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1. The Board will attempt to use one of the agencies prior to determining to pay aid in lieu of transportation if in the prior year payments in lieu of transportation were provided. The Board will provide to the Sussex County Regional Cooperative any unique limitations or restrictions of the required transportation.

When the costs to provide transportation in cooperation with Sussex County Regional Cooperative is less than the aid in lieu of payments, the Board will contract with the Sussex County Regional Cooperative to provide transportation. The Board will make the determination on the manner in which transportation services shall be provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 and shall notify the nonpublic school and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the nonpublic school by August 1 prior to the beginning of the school year.



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Transportation in cooperation with Sussex County Regional Cooperative will not be required when the district can provide transportation at a lower cost than the Sussex County Regional Cooperative or the transportation provided by Sussex County Regional Cooperative does not fall within the policies of the Board regarding length of ride and assignment of pupils to a route based on pupil age or classification.

Vehicles used to transport pupils to and from school or school related activities shall meet standards, registration and inspection requirements of the New Jersey Departments of Education and Transportation. The operation and fiscal management of the district's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education Policy and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 27:15-16

N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 et seq.; 6A:27-2.1 et seq.; 6A:27-3.1.

Adopted: 21 April 2005

