

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. How far must children live from school before the school district is required to transport them?**

- A. Generally, children must live two miles or more from their assigned school before a school district is required to transport them to and from school. It is a local school board decision on whether to transport children who live less than two miles. Because of the many unique programs and situations that may exist, it is recommended that parents contact their local school district to obtain information on the transportation services that may be available.

**Q. Must a school district transport children who live less than two miles from school if there is a hazard between the home and the school?**

- A. No. A school district may transport children who would encounter an extraordinary traffic, drug or crime hazard if they walked, but the school district is not required to provide transportation.

**Q. Who determines what conditions are extraordinary traffic, drug or crime hazards?**

- A. The school district would determine what conditions would be considered hazardous.

**Q. How does a district measure the distance between a child's home and the school?**

- A. The walking distance is measured on public roadways or walkways using the most direct, safe route. There is nothing in state law or rule that specifies at what point the measurement must start and end. Each school district should have a method on how the measurement is made for the schools within its district.

**Q. How far can a school district require a child to walk to a bus stop?**

- A. There is nothing in law or rule about the distance between the child's home and the bus stop. This is true for all age and grade levels. Local school districts may adopt a maximum distance in their school boards' transportation policy.

**Q. Is there a law or rule that limits the amount of time a child can spend on the school bus?**

A. There is nothing in state law or rule that sets a maximum amount of time a child can spend on the school bus. Local school districts may adopt a maximum time in their school boards' transportation policy.

**Q. Can my child lose his/her bus riding privileges?**

A. Yes. In Minnesota, riding a school bus is a privilege and not a right. Each local school district has adopted rules of conduct for waiting at the bus stop and for riding the school bus. If your child does not follow the rules, your child could lose his/her bus riding privileges for the entire school year.

**Q. Will my child receive school bus safety training at school?**

A. Yes. Children in grades kindergarten through tenth must receive school bus safety training during the first few weeks of school. It is recommended that parents review the school bus safety rules with younger children throughout the school year.

**Q. Are there any laws and rules that limit the passenger seating on a school bus?**

A. Yes. The number of children on the school bus cannot be more than the number of passengers that can be fully seated. The seating capacity must be adjusted according to each passenger's individual physical size but cannot be more than the manufacturer's rated seating capacity for the bus. No child is allowed to stand while the bus is in motion.

### **Nonpublic Schools**

**Q. There are two nonpublic schools located within the district with the same religious affiliation and grade levels. Can the public school district designate which nonpublic school my child must attend?**

A. Yes. If a public school district establishes attendance areas for the public schools within its district, then it has the right to establish attendance areas for the nonpublic schools within its district. Your child must live an eligible distance from the assigned nonpublic school in order to receive transportation from the school district.

**Q. There is no nonpublic school of the proper religious affiliation and grade level within the district where we live so we are sending our children to a nonpublic school located in the neighboring district. Is the district where we live and the district where the nonpublic school located required to provide any transportation?**

A. The district in which you live is responsible for the part of the trip that is within its boundaries. Districts can fulfill this responsibility by either providing transportation services or by providing reimbursement. The district where the nonpublic school is located is not required to provide transportation services to nonresident students attending nonpublic schools within its boundaries.

### **Special Education Transportation**

Parents of students with disabilities who have questions about transportation services should access the [Transporting Students with Disabilities](http://cfl.state.mn.us/FIN/transportation.html) manual on this website: <http://cfl.state.mn.us/FIN/transportation.html>.