

Student Transportation Bus Policy

RSU #23 School Department

The RSU #23 School Department Board of Education recognizes that the policy governing the transportation of students must be applied in a uniform and non-arbitrary manner. The RSU #23 School Department Board of Education also believes that it is impractical to pick up all students at their individual residences. Therefore, it is the intent of the RSU #23 School Department Board of Education to utilize consolidated bus stops whenever practical and to prescribe areas around schools which shall be designated as walking zones.

I. Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten

All Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten students may be bus riders. All PreK & K students must be accompanied at the morning and afternoon bus stop by a parent, guardian, or a responsible designee whose name has been provided in advance to transportation services by the student's family. The bus driver or bus aide must be able to visually identify the designee picking up the child (at the bus stop), and ensure that it is the parent or a person the parent has authorized to pick up the child (at the bus stop.) If there is any question as to whether the designee picking up the child is the identified designee the bus driver or bus aide are required to request identification from the designee picking up the child (at the bus stop.)

I. Grade 1-5

Students who reside within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the school to which they are assigned for attendance purposes will walk to school. Students outside of these areas utilizing bus services may also be required to walk up to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile* to a bus pick up point.

II. Grade 6-12

Students who live within 1 mile of the school they attend will walk to school. Students outside of these areas utilizing bus services may be required to walk up to 1 mile* to a bus pick up point.

* Required walking distances may exceed these limits due to remote locations, locations on private roads or locations on roads not suitable for bus traffic.

III. Other Considerations

Distance and safety shall be the deciding factors as to whether a child will walk to school or a bus stop.

Children residing in housing development areas and subdivisions will be picked up at the entrance to the development or subdivision. An exception to entering developments can be made if the distance within the development exceeds 1 mile or if the development is utilized as a bus turnaround.

Buses will not enter roads that are private and not maintained by the Old Orchard Beach Public Works Department.

Buses will not provide either pickup or delivery for students outside of the RSU #23 School Department boundaries.

Assignment to specific buses will depend upon the school of attendance and the address for pickup and delivery. Students may be required to utilize two different buses if the regular pickup and delivery points differ from morning to afternoon (ex: home/daycare).

Necessary special consideration will be given to students with special needs on a case by case basis.

The RSU #23 School Department School System assumes responsibility for a student once the student boards a bus. Such responsibility ends when the student is delivered to the regular bus stop or residence at the close of the day.

Adopted: 1/8/14

Revised: 10/17/19