File: EEAA

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Students will be entitled to entitled to transportation to and from school at the expense of the Cambridge Public Schools when such transportation conforms to applicable provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws and the policies of the School Committee.

The School Committee will provide transportation for students as follows:

Grades K – 5: Students living more than one mile from school.

Grades 6 – 8: Students living more than one and one-half miles from school.

Grades 9 – 12: Not eligible.

The School Committee notes that the above provision of transportation is more generous than the provisions set forth in state law, which contemplates that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education may require the furnishing of transportation to a child in grades kindergarten through six if the distance between the child's residence and the school the child is entitled to attend exceeds two miles and the nearest school bus stop is more than one mile from such residence.

Exceptions to these policies are for the following designated safety barriers:

For students in grades K-5, the following designated safety barriers allow students living less than 1 mile from school to be eligible for transportation:

- Students who must cross Massachusetts Avenue, Monsignor O'Brien Highway, Fresh Pond Parkway, or Alewife Brook Parkway to get to school are eligible for transportation.

- Students who must cross the railroad tracks between Binney Street and Main Street, between the Kennedy-Longfellow School and Fletcher-Maynard Academy are eligible for transportation.

However, if a grade 6 – 8 student living less than 1 ½ miles from school lives with a younger sibling in grades K – 5 who is eligible to ride the bus, the older child, if requested by the parents/guardians/caregivers, will be issued a special bus pass to allow them to accompany their sibling, on a space available basis.

Principals in each school will decide whether grade 6 – 8 students may receive a special bus pass based on the above exception. The pass, will be issued by the Principal's office, offers a special privilege to these students and it may be withdrawn if the student does not obey bus regulations or otherwise misbehaves.

The Cambridge School Committee will provide transportation to private school students attending school in Cambridge on the same basis as it does public school students, upon request.

Additionally, the Cambridge Public Schools provides transportation for special education students in accordance with state and federal law as set forth more fully below.

The Transportation Supervisor, under the supervision of Chief Operating Officer and in conjunction with the administrators of schools and the Office of Special Education shall be responsible for the management of the special education transportation in the school district, including the determination of schedules, routes, stops and all other matters relative to the transportation program, and for insuring compliance with all requirements of the law.

Transportation of Children Eligible for Special Education and Related Services

1. Children requiring special education services will, in accordance with the requirements of state and federal law, receive transportation based upon a team determination whether the student required transportation because of their disability in order to benefit from special education. If the student does not require transportation as a result of their disability, then transportation will be provided in the same manner as it is provided for a student without disabilities. If the team determines that the student's disability requires transportation or specialized transportation arrangements in order to benefit from special education, then the requirement for the provision of special transportation will be noted on the student's individualized education program and the school district shall make arrangements for the provision of said special transportation.

2. Children eligible for special education services, whether receiving such services in district or at a private placement as determined by the student's team, will be returned home following classes each day. When a child is dropped off at their home, parents/guardians/caregivers or an authorized adult shall be present at the child's home to receive a child returning home from school. A child will not be left at their home without a parent/guardian/caregiver or an authorized adult present to receive the child unless (i) the child is age twelve (12) or older, and (ii) the parents/guardians/caregivers of the child have signed a consent form authorizing that the child may be dropped off at their home without their parents/guardians/caregivers or an authorized adult present to receive them.

3. Any high school student attending an out-of-district placement, who already has door-to-door transportation written into their IEP, will be allowed to be dropped off either at CRLS or at the home of an authorized adult who is present to meet the student, provided that (i) the home is within the boundaries of the City of Cambridge, (ii) the student's parent/guardian/caregiver gives the name of the authorized adult to the school district well in advance of requesting any such change in drop off location being implemented and prior to requesting that any such change in drop off location being implemented and prior to requesting that any such change in drop off location being made by the school district; and (iii) the parent/guardian/caregiver of the high school student has signed a consent form authorizing the high school student to be dropped off either at CRLS or at the designated alternate home location.

4. From time to time, students with temporary medical conditions (e.g. broken leg) that prohibit them from walking to school or to a bus stop, may also be eligible, upon request accompanied by a written doctor's note, for door-to-door transportation.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. c. 40, §5; M.G.L. c. 71, §§7A, 68; M.G.L. c. 71B, §§5 & 8

Adopted: January 17, 2023