

## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REGULATIONS

### I. DEFINITIONS:

“**Hazardous Area/Unusual Hazard**” refers to a designated area that does not provide a safe walk path to/from the school during normal weather conditions. The walk path may include traversing a park on designated sidewalks, or alongside streets using either the established sidewalk or the grassy area that is protected by a curb (to distance vehicles from pedestrians). Traffic controls such as stop signs, traffic lights and pedestrian crosswalks are generally considered to be safe to use to cross a street for all grade levels. However, ~~hazardous areas vary, and~~ a street crossing or walk path may be determined to be unsafe ~~if a specific grade level student cannot be expected to be protected from traffic or temptations that could lead to injury along that path of travel.~~ In ~~some cases~~ addition, ~~some~~ a hazardous areas may be mitigated by the addition of a crossing guard.

“**Walking distance**” is determined using the latest Geographic Information Systems (GIS) sidewalk data. ACPS utilizes the shortest path distance, excluding hazardous areas, when determining whether or not a student lives within a one-mile walking distance.

~~“Radius” is calculated using GIS from the address point of a school facility to a specified distance, to create a circular area containing all space within that specified distance.~~

“**Qualifying Services or Accommodations**” indicates that a designated transportation requirement has been afforded to a student:

- By the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan to provide the student with access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE);
- In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program to eliminate barriers to remaining in the student’s school of origin and to provide equal access to programs and activities; or
- To accommodate involuntary displacement of a student that impacts his/her ability to attend their school of origin.
- These criteria apply only to the student, and not to the student’s parents/guardians.

### II. DETERMINATION OF TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

ACPS provides transportation to students in grades K-8 living beyond a one-mile walking distance from the school they attend, or where ~~there is not paths a walk path free from unusual hazards~~ within a one-mile walking distance from the school ~~are free of hazardous areas.~~

ACPS provides transportation to students in grades 9-12 living beyond a one-and-one-half mile ~~walking distance radius~~ from the school they attend, or ~~who live where there is not a~~

walk path free from unusual hazards within a one-and-one-half mile walking distance radius, but who could not reasonably walk to school without passing through a hazardous area.

ACPS reviews routes for unusual hazards in consultation with Health, Safety and Risk Management staff, the Alexandria police department and the Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator, and collaborates with City staff in the development of pedestrian and biking route enhancements and projects.

Ultimately, parents have the responsibility for their children's routes to and from bus stops, schools, and home. ACPS recognizes that each student's need is different, and encourages parents to provide supervision that is appropriate for the student's age, maturity and conditions of their chosen route.

ACPS provides transportation to any student eligible for qualifying services or accommodations, as defined above.

ACPS does not provide transportation for students who have received an administrative transfer outside of their attendance zone, in accordance with Policy JC/JCD.

### **III. TRANSPORTATION ASSIGNMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS**

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#### **A. Bus Stop Assignments:**

Bus stops will be established at safe locations to service eligible student riders. The one-mile walking distance for students in grades K-8, and one-and-one-half mile radius for students in grades 9-12 will be applied as the maximum distance students would be expected to walk to their assigned bus stops. K-8 students eligible for transportation may be required to walk up to one mile to reach a bus stop. High school students eligible for transportation may be required to walk up to a mile and a half to a bus stop. Busing and/or walking assignments will be determined by the Department of Transportation and provided to school administrations for dissemination to the parents/guardians of all students. The Department of Transportation will review bus stop assignments annually, prior to the start of each school year, and as needed throughout the year. Bus stop assignments will be reviewed for safety hazards and to assure the efficient use of buses.

#### **B. Bus Route Assignments:**

Bus routes will be determined based upon the location of designated bus stops servicing a specific school. Bus routes consider the length of the bus ride for the longest riding student, which will not exceed one (1) hour in normal conditions for K-12 students and 45 minutes for pre-K students, and will be designed for efficiency of school bus operations. Route assignments will be used to designate to which school bus or buses a

student will be assigned. Bus routes and assignments are subject to change based on enrollment and/or the operational needs of the Department of Transportation.

Established: April 26, 2018

Legal Refs.: 42 U.S.C. § 11301 *et seq.*  
42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12134.  
Public Law 93-113 § 504.

Code of Virginia, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-176, 22.1-221, 22.1-254.

Cross Refs.: EEA Student Transportation Services  
EEAB School Bus Scheduling and Routing  
EEAC School Bus Safety Program  
[GDP/IICAB Use of Private Vehicles for Transporting Students](#)  
[GDQ School Bus Drivers](#)  
IICA Field Trips  
IICA-R Field Trip Procedures  
JB Equal Educational Opportunities/Non-Discrimination  
JB-R Regulations Concerning Equal Educational Opportunities/Non-Discrimination  
JBA Section 504 Non-Discrimination Policy and Hearing Procedures  
JBA-R Procedures for Section 504 Impartial Hearings  
[JC/JCD Student Placement](#)  
[JC-R/JCD-R ACPS Student Placement Regulations](#)  
JCA Transfer Requests by Student Victims of Crime  
JEC-R School Admission  
JECA Admission of Children who are Homeless  
JFCC Student Conduct on School Buses and at Bus Stops  
JFC-R Standards of Student Conduct