

**Transportation of Students to and from School**

The Ashland School District shall provide transportation for students to and from school in a manner consistent with the provisions of state law (RSA 189:6, 189:9,189:9-a, and 193:12) and related regulations.

The Superintendent, subject to review by the Board, shall establish bus routes. Safety and efficiency are factors that will be given primary consideration when establishing the routes/stops. Bus stops will be designated by the Superintendent or designee in consultation with the transportation company and public safety officials, as needed. Walking distances to bus stops will be established in compliance with applicable RSA’s and safety considerations. In general, unless an authorized bus stop already exists, students will be expected to walk up to the maximum distance to a bus stop or the school as specified in the RSAs.

Per RSA 193:12, students who are deemed legal residents of the school district pursuant to a divorce decree or parenting plan developed under RSA 461-A will not necessarily be provided for under this policy. The Superintendent or designee will make all determinations as to whether transportation will be provided in such circumstances. Transportation will not be provided to students outside the Ashland School District boundaries.

Pick-ups and drop-offs will be only at designated and authorized bus stops. Drivers may not load or unload pupils at other than authorized bus stops.

Parents/guardians are responsible for the supervision of their children until they board the bus or reach school and once they disembark from the bus or leave school. Students are the responsibility of the school district once they board the bus or on school property.

The district will not provide alternative transportation for students who have had their riding privileges suspended in accordance with school disciplinary policies.

The Superintendent or designee, after consultation with the transportation company and public safety officials, shall be authorized to close the school; delay the opening of the school; or implement an early dismissal. In such events, bus transportation schedules will be adjusted accordingly and notification will give via, television and/or voice or electronic messaging.

Parents who wish to request a change to, or exemption from, this policy shall direct the request to the principal of the school. If the principal’s response does not satisfy the parent/guardian, he/she may appeal the ruling to the Superintendent of Schools within ten days of receipt of the principal’s ruling. If the parent/guardian is again not satisfied by the ruling, he/she may appeal the Superintendent’s ruling to the Ashland School Board within ten days of receipt of the Superintendent’s ruling.

*Legal References:*

- RSA 189:6 Transportation of Pupils*
- RSA 189:8 Limitations and Additions*
- RSA 189:9 Pupils Prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons*
- RSA 193:12 Legal Residency Required*

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