STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The District’s transportation is operated in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Code, the “Ohio School Bus Operation Regulations” issued by the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Department of Highway Safety and as otherwise required by Ohio law.

The transportation program is under the direction of the Chief Operating Officer who is responsible to the Chief Executive Officer.

Transportation Policy for Special Education

Special education students will be assigned transportation services and accommodations (vests, oxygen, lifts, etc) as outlined in the Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

The IEP will be followed with regards to transportation and staff are encouraged to consider assigning students to the closest school at which the mandated programs are offered, including private facilities, when that is consistent with the law, applicable regulations and the student’s IEP.

Special Education students who receive curb-to-curb transportation pursuant to an IEP will be picked-up and dropped-off at their home address. However, special pick-up/drop-off arrangements can be requested from the Transportation Department with a two (2) week notice. Both pick-up and drop-off locations must be the same. Criteria to be used for special arrangements could include the following:

- Pick-up/drop-off locations cannot exceed three (3) miles from the home address.
- Medically-fragile students should submit the necessary medical documentation for other arrangements.

Bus attendants will be assigned to buses transporting Special Education students whose IEPs require such service. Additional attendants may be assigned as determined appropriate by the District’s Transportation Department.

Transportation Policy for PreK-8 Schools

PreK through 6th grade students who reside one mile or greater from their home school are eligible for yellow bus transportation. In the event yellow bus transportation is not available, these students will receive RTA tickets or payment in lieu of in-kind transportation.
Students who request and receive special transfers from their home schools to another traditional school (other than city-wide draw schools) will not be provided any form of transportation.

This policy considers the following as the current list of preK-8 city-wide draw schools eligible for transportation:

- Buhrer
- Tremont
- Dike
- Newcomers Academy
- All single gender schools
- Campus International at Cleveland State University
- Whitney Young Leadership Academy

7th and 8th graders who reside one mile or greater from their home school will be offered RTA tickets for their transportation. If lower grade siblings are assigned to a yellow bus, then siblings in the 7th and 8th grades will be allowed to ride based on space availability and proper behavior.

All transportation routes, stops and student residences will be reviewed for impracticability.

Cluster stops will be assigned for students attending schools of choice (charter, voucher, and non-public).

Transportation Policy for High Schools

No yellow bus transportation will be provided for regular education High School students except for MC2 STEM School at Nela Park due to its lease agreement.

High School students residing greater than one mile from their home school will be provided RTA tickets for their transportation, except that:

Any high school student found by any judicial system to have committed two or more nonviolent crimes (including, but not limited to, theft, criminal damaging, disorderly conduct, or menacing) related to conduct occurring on an RTA vehicle or at an RTA facility or stop may, at the discretion of the CEO or his/her designee, forfeit their privilege to receive RTA transportation or payment for a period of up to one year.

Any high school student found by a judicial system to have committed any violent crime (including, but not limited to, assault, robbery, any sex crime, arson, possession of a dangerous ordinance, or possession of any weapon prohibited by Cleveland Codified Ordinance Section 627.11) related to conduct occurring on an RTA vehicle or at an RTA facility or stop will forfeit their
privilege to receive RTA transportation or payment for a period of one year.

Any high school student found by a judicial system to have committed any violent or nonviolent crime related to conduct occurring on an RTA vehicle or at an RTA facility or stop after a one year forfeiture and reinstatement of RTA transportation privileges will permanently forfeit his or her privilege to receive RTA transportation or payment.

Students who forfeit their RTA transportation privilege pursuant to this policy will not be provided any other means of transportation by the District, except that students who require transportation services pursuant to an individualized education program or 504 plan will be provided alternative transportation services by the District.

Non-public High School students who reside greater than one mile from their CMSD home school will be provided RTA tickets or payment in lieu of in-kind transportation subject to the same exceptions provided above.

[Adoption date: June 28, 2016]

LEGAL REFERENCES
ORC:
3313.64 - .65
3314.09 - .091
3317.07
3327.01-3327.10
4511.76-4511.78
OAC 3301-83; 3301-87-01
CCO 627.11