

## **KILLEEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL**

The District shall provide transportation services for elementary students who reside one or more miles from the school they attend and for high school and middle school students who reside two or more miles from the school they attend, according to established attendance zones. Transportation service shall be based upon the location of the student's residence. A student who lives near a bus stop, but within the no transportation zone, shall not be eligible for bus transportation. The Superintendent may also approve transportation for students residing in hazardous areas identified within the boundaries of the District.

Applicable fees, if any, shall be approved by the Board and published in Administrative Procedures.

### **District-wide programs**

Transportation may be provided, on a limited basis, for a student who is enrolled in a District-wide program (e.g., District Alternative Education Program). In such cases, a student shall be picked up at a designated, centralized bus stop. The distance between the student's residence and the designated bus stop shall not exceed two miles.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Transportation for a student with a disability who requires transportation as a related service, shall be provided transportation in accordance with the student's individualized education program. Transportation may be provided according to the options listed below. Any transportation requests that fall outside the options listed below will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Transportation shall be provided to and from an address within the attendance zone where the student lives, or within the attendance zone of the campus the student actually attends, according to the options set out below:

#### 1. Home and School option

A student may receive transportation from his or her home address to the assigned campus in the morning and be returned to that address after school.

A student may receive transportation from his or her home address to the assigned campus in the morning and be transported to a child-care provider located within the attendance zone of the assigned campus after school.

A student may receive transportation from a child-care provider located within the attendance zone of the assigned campus in the morning and be transported to his or her home address after school.

A student may receive transportation from a child-care provider located within the attendance zone of the assigned campus in the morning and be transported to the same child-care provider after school.

#### 2. Child-Care option

The special education department shall assign the student to the program campus within the attendance zone that supports the address of the child-care provider. Transportation shall be provided to the child-care provider's address and the student's assigned campus. If this option is selected, it shall apply to both morning and after-school

transportation. If a Child Care Facility (CCF) is designated, the facility must meet the criteria of a state-recognized facility as defined by *Texas Human Resources Code*, Section 42.002, and be currently licensed or registered. The CCF operation number must be provided prior to establishment of transportation service. If this option is selected, it shall apply to both morning and after-school transportation.

### **Designation of Child-Care Facility or Grandparent's Residence**

Parents may designate a state-approved child-care facility or the residence of a grandparent as the location from which the District shall determine transportation eligibility. Requests shall be initiated at the campus where the student is registered. The following provisions shall apply to this regular education student service:

- The location must be served by an approved, existing bus stop and on an approved regular route. New bus routes shall not be added to accommodate overflow; transportation shall be on a space-available basis.
- The designated stop must be within the attendance zone for the school the child attends based on the student's residence.
- The designated stop shall be the only approved stop for both morning and after school transportation services.
- Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) and Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) students shall not be eligible for this service.

### **Transfer Students**

A nonresident student admitted to District schools as a transfer student (inter-district transfer) shall not be eligible for District-provided transportation. A resident student permitted to attend a campus outside the ordinary attendance area for the student's residence (intra-district transfer) shall not be eligible for District-provided transportation.

### **Sibling Ridership Exceptions**

Students who have been granted a campus transfer are not eligible for a sibling ridership exception. Requests for sibling ridership exceptions will be considered based on extenuating circumstances only. These requests will be considered by the transportation department parent liaison using the request form found in Exhibit D no earlier than the first day of school. The requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis beginning the fifth week of school and may be granted on a space available basis only. In the event ridership increases, or if a route must be changed, exceptions previously granted will be terminated with a minimum of 48 hours' notice. This exception may also be terminated as a result of student misconduct. These exceptions are valid for the existing school year only and must be re-submitted for consideration annually.

### **Students who are Homeless**

Students who are homeless as defined by United States Code, Title 42, Section 11434a shall, in the child's best interest, continue to be enrolled in the child's "school of origin" for the duration of homelessness in accordance with Board Policies FDC (Legal) and FDC (Local): Admissions – Homeless Students. The District shall provide transportation to the student who is homeless to and from the "school of origin." However, in order to determine the best interest of the student for the purpose of continuing the student's education in the "school of origin," the District shall consider the impact of moving schools on the student's achievement, education, health and

safety, including the “distance of the commute and its impact on the student’s education or special needs.” While consideration of the distance of the commute is only one of the factors that must be considered, commutes in excess of two hours a day have such a negative impact on a student’s achievement, education, health and safety, that the District will not consider a “school of origin” to be one in excess of an hour commute one way, absent extenuating circumstances. The time of the commute shall be determined by the routes established at the time the student is identified as homeless and shall be calculated as the time from the student’s assigned bus stop to the “school of origin,” including all transfers.

### **Hazardous Conditions**

Students who reside within a designated hazardous area under the following guidelines may be provided transportation as determined by the Superintendent.

Hazardous areas may be added or removed throughout the school year using the District’s evaluation procedures. An annual hazardous area report shall be prepared and submitted to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) School Transportation Office with the School Transportation Route Services Report.

Area evaluation procedures shall consider the following conditions to determine degree of hazard. The results shall be weighted by age group (elementary, middle, and high school levels). For example, an area may be considered hazardous for an elementary student, but not hazardous for a middle school or high school student.

The following conditions shall be considered:

1. Type of area—rural, commercial/industrial, apartment, single family
2. Hazards along the route—expressway, access road, arterial road, isolated area, railroad tracks, low-water crossing
3. Distance to school
4. Traffic controls
5. Traffic density
6. Speed limits
7. Major intersections to be crossed
8. Feeder streets to be crossed

In addition to areas identified as hazardous using these procedures, any areas that require students to cross Interstate 14 (Highway 190) at an unprotected location shall be deemed hazardous.

### **Bus Stops**

All students who use District transportation shall board and depart buses only at the stop authorized for that student. Authorized bus stops shall be designated annually by the Superintendent or designee. Bus drivers shall load and unload passengers only at authorized stops.

Only certain students, whose needs are addressed through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), are eligible for “curbside” service. “Curbside” service is normally restricted to situations where a less restrictive environment is not possible or where medical issues require this type of service.

Students attending their zoned campus may be required to walk up to .25 miles to their bus stop for elementary school (PK-5), .5 miles for middle school (6-8) and up to .75 miles for high school (9-12). Students attending district-wide programs may be required to walk up to one (1) mile for elementary and up to two (2) miles for middle and high school programs.

**Safety Precautions**

A student who does not abide by school bus safety rules may lose bus-riding privileges.

DATE: May 2020  
September 2019

CONTACT: Chief Financial Officer