

## Why can't the bus go down my street?

### R277-600-6

#### Bus Route Approval

A. Transportation is over routes proposed by local boards and approved by the USBE. Information requested by the USBE shall be provided prior to approval of a route. A route usually is not approved for reimbursement if an equitable student transportation allowance or a subsistence allowance accomplishes the needed transportation at less cost. A route shall:

- traverse the most direct public route;
- be reasonably cost effective related to other feasible alternatives; provide adequate safety;
- traverse roads that are constructed and maintained in a manner that does not cause property damage; and
- include an economically adequate number of students.

B. The minimum number of general education students required to establish a route is ten; the minimum number of students with disabilities is five. A route may be established for fewer students upon special permission of the State Superintendent.

C. The school district designates safe areas for bus stops.

- To promote efficiency, the USBE approved minimum distance between bus stops is 3/10 of a mile. The USBE may approve shorter distances between bus stops for student safety.
- Bus routes shall avoid, whenever possible, bus stops on dead-end roads.
- Students are responsible for their own transportation to bus stops up to one and one-half miles from home.
- Special education students are responsible for their own transportation to bus stops consistent with their IEPs.

D. Changes made by school districts in existing routes or the addition of new routes shall be reported to the USOE as they occur. The USBE shall review and may refuse to fund route changes as applicable.

E. Transporting eligible students home after school activities held at the students' school of regular attendance and within a reasonable time period after the close of the regular school day is approved route mileage.

F. A route may be approved as an alternative to building construction upon special permission of the USBE if the route is needed to allow more efficient school district use of school facilities. Building construction alternatives include elementary double sessions, year-round school, and attendance across school district boundaries.

G. (1) School districts may use State Guarantee Transportation Levy or local transportation funds to transport students across state lines or out-of-state for school sponsored activities or required field trips if:

- the local board has a policy that includes approval of trips at the appropriate administrative level;
- the school or school district has considered the purpose of the trip or activity and any competing risk or liability;
- given the distance, purpose and length of the trip, the school district has determined that the use of a publicly owned school bus is most appropriate for the trip or activity; and
- the local board has consulted with State Risk Management.

(2) If school bus routes transport students across Utah state lines or outside of Utah for required to and from routes, routes are reimbursable providing school districts maintain documentation that the routes are necessary, or are more cost-effective, or provide greater safety for students than in-state routes.