

# Kenton County School District

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REVIEW OF DISTRICT POLICY 6.32 ELIGIBILITY FOR TRANSPORTATION

JANUARY 7, 2019



**Eligibility for Transportation**

Pupils shall be transported to and from school in accordance with predetermined bus routes.

**REGULAR BUS SERVICE**

Kenton County School buses will provide regular bus service on streets that are more than one fourth (1/4) mile in length. Students living on streets less than one fourth (1/4) miles in distance will be required to meet the school bus at the end of the street at a designated bus stop.

Special Needs routes and Pre-School routes may be an exception to the one fourth (1/4) mile rule.

Bus service will be provided to students who live on streets over one fourth (1/4) mile in length if the following conditions are met:

- A. All street construction and home construction has been completed.
- B. The street meets all area planning requirements including cul-de-sac and T-street turn around requirements and either the city or county road departments has installed "No Parking" signs in the turn around areas.
- C. The school bus must be able to make a safe exit from the side street onto the main street.
- D. Group bus stops (approved areas where groups of students wait for the school bus) will be utilized whenever possible; however, individual bus stops may also be designated on the same street. All bus stops must be approved by the Director of Transportation or his/her designee.

There may be exceptions to the one fourth (1/4) mile rule street length rule as follows:

- 1. The Transportation Department will provide special bus service for mid-day kindergarten students if the items in lines A thru D listed above are met. However, when the kindergarten students ride the regular morning elementary bus to school or the afternoon elementary bus home, the morning pick-up and afternoon drop off will be at the closest designated bus stop.
- 2. Special Needs students will be provided bus service on their street if the items in lines A thru D are met. If any of these qualifications are not met, an alternate bus stop must be approved.
- 3. Pre-School students will be provided bus service on their street if the items in lines A thru D are met. If any of these qualifications are not met, an alternate bus stop must be approved.
- 4. All exceptions shall be approved by the Director of Transportation or his/her designee.

The State of Kentucky regulation says Districts may assign students a bus stop up to 1 mile from their home.

The State has a Frequently Asked Question and Answer site located at

<http://education.ky.gov/districts/trans/Pages/Pupil-Transportation-FAQs.aspx>

The following FAQ's are located on this site:

**I cannot see my child's bus stop from the house. Are there state laws that set the standards for bus stop location?**

*The law does not require a parent to see the bus stop from the house. Students in Kentucky may be assigned to a bus stop up to one mile from their home. We encourage parents to accompany their child to the bus stop whenever possible. Bus stop locations are determined by each district and take into consideration many safety aspects of the area.*

**Why won't my district provide door to door service for my child?**

*Door to door service is not required by state regulation. In fact, door to door service can be very inefficient. It is the responsibility of the school district to provide safe and efficient transportation to the students. Often times, providing door to door service is more costly to the districts.*

**I have small children and cannot get to the stop to drop off or pick up my child. Can the bus pick up and drop off my child at home?**

*Each child must be picked up at their designated stop. While we understand the location and schedule may be inconvenient, proper supervision shall be provided by the parent or designee before the bus picks up a child and after the bus drops off the child. If your district requires a designated person to be at the bus stop to pick up a child, the parents shall make the proper arrangements.*

**I work and cannot pick up my child from the bus stop. Can the bus drop off at our home or change the time they drop off my child?**

*School bus stops are placed for safety and efficiency purposes. While we understand the location and schedule may be inconvenient, proper supervision shall be provided by the parent or designee before a bus picks up a child and after the bus drops off the child.*



The staff at Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS) performed an analysis of all streets located within the Kenton County School District boundary that are less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile in length. The attached map highlights each of the corridors that we do not travel and establish designated bus stops. There are a total of 1,204 streets that are less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile. Of those total streets less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile, **443** streets currently have middle and high school students residing and **376** streets currently with elementary students residing. The balance of the streets less than a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile do not have any students currently residing.



The attached map demonstrates an area that highlights a street that we travel which is less than a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile but is merely used as an access corridor. This street is merely used to gain access to another street which is greater than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile in length.



Other streets that may appear to be a violation of this policy are streets without sidewalks. Some of these areas would require students to walk in a roadway where they are likely to encounter vehicular traffic and may have little to no shoulder in the roadway to safely walk.

District staff also performed an analysis of expected cost increases should we consider a change in policy and transport students down corridors that are less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile in length. There is significant cost associated with this approach such as additional travel time, fuel cost, and even require the acquisition of buses.

The estimated labor for the 443 streets to add middle school and high school students is \$116,659. The estimated fuel cost for the 443 streets is \$11,628.

The estimated labor for the 376 streets to add elementary students is \$99,016 and the projected fuel cost is \$9,870.

The most significant cost associated with making this change is the cost to purchase and add six buses to the total fleet inventory. The average bus cost stemming from the 2019 bus purchase is \$114,290.00. The total additional bus purchase cost is \$685,740.00. In addition, this change will also necessitate the hiring of six additional drivers.

The total projected cost to add route coverage for streets that are less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  is approximately \$922,913.00 and likely to exceed \$1,000,000.00.

District staff also prepared a review of neighboring school district policies and procedures in order compare our existing position regarding Policy 6.32. There are some districts without any specific policy and one district that establishes bus stops up to a mile from the students' home. Most of the adjacent districts maintain a policy that establishes corridor restrictions of 2/10 of a mile. Many districts have specific criteria for assessing safe walking paths and designated bus stop placement.

The following items are worth considering with some future policy revisions:

- Clarify the safety assessment requirements in determining exceptions to the quarter mile rule
  - Recommend that safe walking paths include sidewalks
  - Recommend clarifying the provision for adequate lighting
- Recommend strong statements encouraging parent/guardians to walk and supervise their elementary students at the designated bus stops
- Recommend changing the ¼ mile designation to 2/10 of a mile
- Clarify the need for safe and adequate turning areas for buses at the end of each corridor to be traveled