

RSU 63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** EEA
- b. **Title:** Student Transportation
- c. **Author:** Director of Transportation
- d. **Replaces Policy:**
- e. **Date Approved:** 04/24/2023 RSU 63
- f. **Previously Approved:** 02/29/2016
- g. **Policy Expiration:** Review as Needed
- h. **Responsible for Review:** Director of Transportation & Policy Committee
- i. **Date Reviewed:** 04/03/2023 Director of Transportation
04/10/2023 Policy Committee
- j. **References:**

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 5401

Cross Referenced Policies: EEAEC- Student and Rider Conduct on School Vehicles
EBCD-Emergency School Closings/
Situations

k. **Narrative:**

The RSU 63 Board of Directors (the Board) is committed to safe, secure, and cost-efficient transportation of students.

I. Consolidation of Bus Stops: It is the intent of the Board to implement consolidation of bus stops in all areas with consideration being to the safety and well-being of students.

II. Request for Bus Service:

A. The Board establishes roads serviced by school buses. The safety and welfare of the passengers will be the primary factor in making decisions regarding new service(s). Factors such as the adequacy of bus turnarounds, snow plowing and sanding, existing and seasonal road conditions, and overall roadway character are to be taken into consideration. In the latter instance, standards listed for roadways in individual town subdivision ordinances serve as guidelines. Where such an ordinance does not exist, the Board will use the minimum listed standards of other RSU 63 towns.

B. Citizens wishing to have bus services on roads not already being served will be asked to submit a written request to the RSU 63 Director of Transportation, with a copy to the RSU 63 Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board for a vote.

III. Approved School Bus Turnarounds: School buses are only allowed to turn around in a town-owned or town-maintained public way unless the Director of Transportation has obtained written permission from the landowner prior to the bus utilizing the turnaround.

From time to time, a bus may need to turn around in a non-designated area, but this will only be done in extreme cases, keeping in mind the safety of the students at all times.

IV. Parking Points:

- A.** To minimize the time that buses travel empty and to conserve fuel and operating time, the Director of Transportation will arrange bus routes to be in the proximity of the drivers' homes. Drivers may park their bus on a readily supervised site on their property, providing the bus is at least fifty (50) feet from center of the roadway.
- B.** If a bus route is further than one mile from a driver's home, the bus must be parked at the closest point to the route, either the driver's home or one of the following four locations to the route:
 - 1.** Eddington School,
 - 2.** Holden School,
 - 3.** Holbrook School, or
 - 4.** RSU 63 bus garage
- C.** On a case-by-case basis, buses may be parked over-night outside the RSU 63 area with permission of the Director of Transportation.

V. RSU 63 will provide transportation to Brewer High School and John Bapst Memorial High School as they are the primary supplying schools for RSU 63. Other high schools frequently utilized are Bangor High School and Hampden Academy. Transportation to these and other high schools may be considered by the Board.

VI. On those days RSU 63 closes district schools due to inclement weather, bus services will not be provided to any school including those located in other school districts which may be open.

VII. When RSU 63 provides a transfer bus or buses, it will be at safe and centralized sites.