

SCHOOL BUS SCHEDULING AND ROUTING

The Evangeline Parish School Board shall provide school bus transportation for all students living more than one mile from the school that they are assigned to attend. Students living within one mile of the school and within a School Board designated danger zone may be allowed to ride a school bus. Other students may be provided with school bus transportation in accordance with regulations of the Louisiana Department of Education.

Elementary, junior high, and high school pupils, grades K-12, of public, parochial/church sponsored schools living within Evangeline Parish boundaries may be transported by public school buses to the school in their district provided it is determined they reside beyond the non-bus area. All public and parochial school students living outside the city limits of Ville Platte whose residence has been determined to be outside the non-bus area of a school may be transported to the school in their district provided they reside outside the non-bus area of that school.

The following criteria shall govern the establishment of transportation areas:

1. The bus area of a school shall begin at least a mile from the school. Distance shall be measured by the radius method using each school as a center of a circle. Actual distance traveled is a factor that may be given consideration in unusual situations.
2. There must be a sufficient concentration of population beyond a mile to warrant establishment of a bus area within a school district.
3. Undue safety hazards existing in routes to or from a school within the walking area as determined by criteria "A" and "B" above may be a factor in establishing the bus area.

It shall be the responsibility of the Supervisor of Transportation to apply the above principles to all school district basic areas in the establishment of bus areas and bus routes.

A reasonable time shall be established for each route and the bus operator shall be expected to adhere to this schedule. By the same token, students shall be expected to be at their respective bus stop when the bus arrives. Once a bus route has been established, the bus operator shall not alter or change assigned routes without order of the Superintendent or his/her designee. Any bus operator who feels a road is unsafe or dangerous shall report such dangerous condition to the Superintendent or his/her designee, and the bus operator shall not be allowed to travel the road until the Superintendent or his/her designee determines said road is safe or improved, or the situation has been rectified.

Buses must be routed so that no more than one bus will travel the same route, except in cases of definite apparent necessity. Each scheduled route will be planned in full consideration of the safety of students.

During inclement weather, bus operators may make more frequent stops.

BUS TURN-AROUNDS

The Evangeline Parish School Board shall require that no home be designated as a bus turn-around if that home is two-tenths (2/10) of a mile or less from the road down which a bus passes to pick up a child for transportation to an area school. In this instance, those children should walk to the nearest turn-around or pick-up point at the designated time for pick-up.

Homes which are more than two-tenths (2/10) of a mile from the road down which a bus passes to pick up their child may be eligible for designation as a bus turn-around, pending evaluation and determination by the Supervisor of Transportation.

LOADING AND UNLOADING OF STUDENTS

The loading and unloading of students onto and from school buses being utilized to transport students shall be conditional on the following:

1. Bus operators shall be prohibited from loading or unloading students at school while the bus is in a traffic lane of any type of street as defined in state law and require that students be loaded or unloaded on a shoulder, in a school parking lot, or at other appropriate off-road location at the school as determined by the School Board. This requirement shall not apply if the shoulder of a municipal road is the only available alternative and the municipality has not made the shoulder available by designating that area for loading and unloading students during designated school zone hours.
2. Bus operators shall be prohibited from loading or unloading students at or near their homes while the bus is in a lane of traffic unless the bus is in the lane farthest to the right side of the road so that there is not a lane of traffic between the bus and the right-side curb or other edge of the road.
3. Bus operators shall be prohibited from loading or unloading a student in a location on a divided highway such that a student, in order to walk between the bus and his/her home or school, would be required to cross a roadway of the highway on which traffic is not controlled by the visual signals on the school bus.

Street or highway means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way or

place of whatever nature publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for the purpose of vehicular travel, including bridges, causeways, tunnels, and ferries.

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. "17:158, 32:1; Board minutes, 10-21-15, 8-17-22.