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708 - TRANSPORTATION OF NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to address transportation rights of nonpublic school students and to provide equality of treatment in transporting such students pursuant to law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the school district to recognize the rights of nonpublic school students and to provide equal transportation to those students as required by law.

III. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The school district shall provide equal transportation within the school district for all students to any school when transportation is deemed necessary by the school district because of distance or traffic condition in like manner and form as provided in Minnesota Statutes Sections 123B.88 when applicable. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.86, Subd. 1.)
- B. The school district shall provide school bus transportation to the school district boundary for students residing in the school district at least the same distance from a nonpublic school actually attended in another school district as public school students are transported in the transporting school district, whether or not there is another nonpublic school within the transporting school district, if the transportation is to schools maintaining grades or departments not maintained in the school district or if the attendance of such students at school can more safely, economically, or conveniently be provided for by such means. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.86, Subd. 1; Minn. Stat. § 123B.86, Subd. 2(a).)
- C. The school district may provide school bus transportation to a nonpublic school in another school district for students residing in the school district and attending that school, whether or not there is another nonpublic school within the transporting school district, if the transportation is to schools maintaining grades or departments not maintained in the school district or if the attendance of such students at school can more safely, economically, or conveniently be provided for by such means. If the school district transports students to a nonpublic school located in another school

district, the nonpublic school shall pay the cost of such transportation provided outside the school district boundaries. Minn. Stat. § 123B.86, Subd. 2(c).

- D. When transportation is provided, the scheduling of routes, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of students and any other matter relating thereto shall be within the sole discretion, control and management of the school district. Minn. Stat. § 123B.44, Subd. 1.
- E. Additional transportation to and from a nonpublic school may be provided at the expense of the school district where such services are provided in the discretion of the school district. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.86, subd. 3.)

IV. SPECIAL EDUCATION/DISABLED STUDENTS

- A. If a resident student with a disability attends a nonpublic school located within the district of the student's residence, the school district shall provide necessary transportation for the student within the district between the nonpublic school and the educational facility where special instruction and services are provided on a shared time basis. If a resident student with a disability attends a nonpublic school located in another district and if no agreement exists for the provision of special instruction and services on a shared time basis to that student by the district of attendance and where the special instruction and services are provided within the district of residence, the district of residence shall provide necessary transportation for that student between the boundary of the district of residence and the educational facility. The district of residence may provide necessary transportation for that student between its boundary and the nonpublic school attended, but the nonpublic school shall pay the cost of transportation provided outside the district. Districts may make agreements for who provides transportation. Parties serving students on a shared time basis have access to the due process hearing system described under United States Code, Title 20, and the complaint system under Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Section 300.660.662. (Minn. Stat. § 125A.18.)
- B. Disabled students whose handicapped conditions are such that the student cannot be safely transported on the regular school bus or school bus route and/or when the student is transported on a special route for the purpose of attending an approved special education program shall be entitled to special transportation at the expense of the school district. The school district shall determine the type of vehicle used to transport disabled students on the basis of the handicapping condition. This section shall not be applicable to parents who transport their own child under a contract with the school district. Minn. R. 3520.3300, subp. 1.

- C. Any parent of a disabled student who believes that the transportation services provided for that child are not in compliance with the applicable law may utilize the due process procedures provided for in Minn. Stat. § 125A.09, Subd. 6. Minn. R. 3520.3300, subp. 2.

V. APPLICATION OF GENERAL POLICY

The provisions of the school district's policy on transportation of public school students [*Model Policy 707*] shall apply to the transportation of nonpublic school students except as specifically provided herein.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § Ch. 125A, (Children With A Disability)
Minn. Stat. §123B.88 (Independent School Districts, Transportation)
Minn. Stat. §123B.84 (Policy)
Minn. Stat. §123B.86 (Equal Treatment)
Minn. Stat. §123B.44 (Provision of pupil support services)
Minn. R. 3520.3300 (Transportation of Handicapped Students)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 707 (Transportation of Public School Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 709 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 10, Transportation
Americans United, Inc. as Protestants and Other Am. United for Separation of Church and State, et al. v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 622, et al., 288 Minn. 1996, 179 N.W.2d 146 (Minn. 1970).
Eldridge v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 625, 422 N.W.2d 319 (Minn. App. 1988).
Healy v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 625, 962 F.2d 1304 (8th Cir. 1992).