

22-16-4 School bus routes; limitations; exceptions; minimum requirements.

A. Bus routes shall be established by the local school district.

B. Except as provided in Subsections C and E of this section, no school bus route shall be maintained for distances less than:

(1) one mile one way for students in grades kindergarten through six;

(2) one and one-half miles one way for students in grades seven through nine; and

(3) two miles one way for students in grades ten through twelve.

C. In school districts having hazardous walking conditions as determined by the local school board and confirmed by the state transportation director, students of any grade may be transported a lesser distance than that provided in Subsection B of this section. General standards for determining hazardous walking conditions shall be established by the state transportation division of the department with the approval of the department, but the standards shall be flexibly and not rigidly applied by the local school board and the state transportation director to prevent accidents and help ensure student safety.

D. A school district with from one to six students enrolled in the school district whose residence, within the boundaries of the school district, is five or more miles from the student's or students' school or schools shall be able to provide transportation to and from school by means of a school-district-owned, minimum six-passenger, full-size, extended-length, sport utility vehicle driven by a school district employee certified as an activity driver by the district with both the vehicle and driver insured by the public school insurance authority; provided that the local superintendent is able to demonstrate a need. The department shall adopt rules to provide for the safety of students transported in a sport utility vehicle pursuant to this section.

E. Exceptional children whose handicaps require transportation and three- and four-year-old children who meet the department-approved criteria and definition of developmentally disabled may be transported a lesser distance than that provided in Subsection B of this section.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 77-14-4, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 16, § 222; 1975, ch. 342, § 4; 1987, ch. 149, § 3; 1993, ch. 234, § 1; 1995, ch. 208, § 7; 2017, ch. 94, § 1.