

New Jersey Department of Education

Division of Finance

Chapter 27 – Student Transportation

Readoption with amendments

State Board of Education

June 2020



Please note that this PowerPoint presentation has been modified from its original version to be more accessible.

Goals for the Proposed Amendments

- School bus safety
 - Implement new package of school bus safety laws
 - Codify best practices for school districts to ensure safety of students
- Reviewed for alignment with current law
- Clarified and streamlined current regulations for practitioner ease of use



Student Safety Improvements

Safety Concern	Current Regulations/Policy	Proposed Amendments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat belt safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety drills required twice per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add instruction for proper use of safety belts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver qualifications and condition • School bus registration and inspections • School bus condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements set forth in school district contracts • Districts who learn of non-compliance can take action on their contracts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requires board policies to ensure ongoing random checks for drivers' license, vehicle registration, and pre-trip inspections for school buses 2. Employers must notify drivers when qualification requirements are due 3. Employers must verify to Department that suspended/revoked drivers are not operating buses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student identification during emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No requirement – best practice to have a list of students on each bus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District board of education may adopt policy for student identification in case of emergency



Student Safety Continued

Safety Concern	Current Regulations/Policy	Proposed Amendments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">School district transportation supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Department-endorsed training program for transportation supervisors at RutgersNon-mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Makes the Department-endorsed training program mandatoryDefines school district transportation supervisors using job functions



Alignment with Current Law

Legal Development	Current Regulation	Proposed Amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District responsibility can change when a homeless student is “domiciled” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did not account for change in district responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts for when homeless student is “domiciled”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobility assistance vehicles are allowed to transport students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-20.1 (2016) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No regulations regarding this type of transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added two regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle qualifications Driver qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training program for interacting with students with special needs – N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently no regulations, but training programs were in existence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted regulations consistent with this program



Clarifying and Streamlining

Current Regulation	Proposed Amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restates “two and one-half miles for high school students and beyond two miles for elementary school students” throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines “remote” as “two and one-half miles for high school students...” Replaces lengthy sentence with “remote”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names for documents don’t match the document titles posted on the website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligned document names in the regulations and on the website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definitions and terms in choice program and charter/renaissance sections did not align to those in the law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligned with definitions in the law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used “board of education” or “district board of education” interchangeably 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised throughout to “district board of education”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting procedures not always listed below the appropriate subsection Example: item listed under district when it is the bidder’s responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and moved some provisions to the appropriate subsection so the section is easier to follow

