



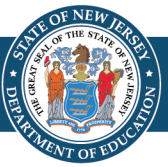
New Jersey Department of Education



Chapter 27, Student Transportation Amendments

Division of Finance and Business Services

March 5, 2025





Purpose of N.J.A.C. 6A:27



The chapter's purpose is to ensure the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school and school-related activities. The Department is proposing amendments to three areas.

- Amendments at section 2.1 will clarify the calculation of aid-in-lieu payments for nonpublic school student transportation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.
- The proposed amendments at section 7.6 will effectuate P.L. 2024, c. 81, which allows school districts to designate school personnel to drive students to and from school in private or district-owned vehicles while exempting them from the certifications and standards that apply to school buses and drivers.
- The proposed new Subchapter 14 will establish procedures needed to implement the nonpublic school consortium transportation program established by P.L. 2023, c. 326.



Amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1



Purpose: Clarify the current rules to ensure that payments made in lieu of transportation are provided according to authorizing statute.

- The amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1 clarifies the aid-in-lieu payment is prorated for students who are registered for less than the full year (the full-year amount times $1/180$ times the number of days remaining).



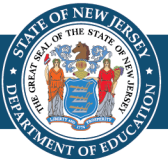
Amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6



P.L. 2024, c. 81 allows districts to designate school personnel who are not licensed as school bus drivers to transport students between home and school in a vehicle with a capacity of eight or fewer passengers, excluding the driver.

The proposed new rules accomplish the following:

1. Require districts to adopt policies and requirements for driver eligibility.
2. Establish a process for districts to submit a list of drivers and their qualifications to the county office of education by July 15.
3. Ensure the vehicles used for transporting students according to this section meet State and Federal standards.





Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6, Driver eligibility



The new rules list the requirements a driver must meet to be eligible as a designated driver under this section. Drivers must:

- Be employed by the district, at least 21 years old and have possessed a New Jersey driver's license for at least three years;
- Receive basic safety training in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.1a.c and training for interacting with students with disabilities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.2;
- Provide documentation of a physical exam, criminal history check, child abuse record, and driving record for the previous five years; and
- Provide written consent for the district to access their driving records on a monthly basis.



Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6, Vehicle Requirements



Additional rules establish requirements for the vehicles used in transporting students to and from school pursuant to this section.

- Must have a capacity of eight or fewer passengers, excluding the driver.
- May be a private vehicle or district-owned vehicle.
- Are exempt from the inspection, maintenance, and other standard requirements that apply to school buses, unless they are used for transporting students for other purposes.
- Must meet all State and Federal standards and requirements specific to the vehicle and in accordance with the transported student's individualized education program (IEP).





Proposed New Subchapter 14



P.L. 2023, c. 326 established a three-year nonpublic school consortium transportation program. The proposed new rules will accomplish the following:

1. Establish eligibility for participating in the consortium program.
2. Establish requirements for all affected parties: the consortium, school districts, nonpublic schools, parents, county offices, and oversight committees.
3. Ensure accountability in the consortium transportation program's implementation through procedural oversight.



Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:27-14, Administration



- The consortium assumes school district responsibilities for providing transportation and payments for member nonpublic school students.
- District boards of education that choose to participate in a consortium maintain responsibility for State reporting of eligible students and general oversight over the transportation provided to their resident nonpublic school students.
- Each consortium must have a five-person, Commissioner appointed oversight committee, that will monitor the consortium operations.



Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:27-14, Consortium Members



Responsibilities for member nonpublic schools and nonpublic school parents are similar to those for non-members, except that member nonpublic schools and parents will interact with the consortium rather than directly with the school district.

Member Nonpublic schools must:

- Disburse, collect, and verify the accuracy of student transportation applications.

Member Nonpublic school parents must:

- Complete applications for transportation and payment vouchers; and
- Pay the actual cost if their child is not eligible for transportation services but is provided subscription busing by the consortium.

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