

MVYPS SCHOOLS

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION POLICY

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, section 68 (as amended) and Chapter 76, section 1 (as amended), the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District will furnish public transportation to those students entitled to attend a school within the following school districts; Up-Island Regional, Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, and the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

Transportation will be furnished according to the following criteria in order to provide safe transportation to school/home:

1. Students in grades Kdg-12 students will receive free transportation if the distance over the most direct public ways between a student's residence and the school he/she is entitled to attend exceeds 1.5 miles.

A. Student's living within the 1.5 mile radius, transportation will be provided when walking to school is deemed unsafe by The Transportation Director, Principal, and Town Chief of Police.

2. School bus stops will be at centralized locations. Students are not entitled to street-by-street or door-to-door pickup and/or delivery. The distance over the most direct public/town maintained ways between an eligible student's residence and the nearest school bus stop shall not exceed 1.0 mile, in accordance with state law.

A. An adult must accompany kindergarten student at stop/meet bus at drop off.

B. An adult must accompany a student requiring specialized transportation at stop/meet bus at drop off.

3. Measurement of the distance between an eligible student's residence and the nearest school he/she is entitled to attend will be from the property line of the student's residence to the nearest public access road of the school. When the measurement appears marginal or in dispute, the official school measuring device shall be the final method of determining the distance.

4. Standees will not be permitted on school buses, except for emergencies.

5. Specialized transportation is provided as a related service as determined on a student's IEP as determined, following state regulations: 603 CMR 28.00: Special Education.

6. In executing this policy the School Committee will be governed by reason, concern for the safety of students in grades Kdg-12 walking on public ways, and fiscal responsibility.

SNOW CANCELLATION/DELAY POLICY We urge parents to use their own discretion when sending students on snowy or icy days. Please arrange to be home or have another person at home to receive your child in case of an early dismissal in bad weather.

1. **SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS:** Your child will NOT be transported if school is cancelled.

2. **DELAYED OPENINGS:** If the school starts one to two hours late, the student will be picked up approximately one to two hours later than usual. It is possible that delayed openings may

cause some minor delays with traffic etc.; however, we ask you to be patient with this procedure since we want to provide safe transportation for your child.

3. **UNEXPECTED EARLY RELEASE:** If school is cancelled early, a parent must be prepared to be home to receive their child.

VEHICLE BREAKDOWN POLICY AND PROCEDURE

1. The driver will contact the Transportation Director as soon as possible. The driver will remain with the students at all times.
2. The transportation office will work to solve the problem by providing another vehicle in a reasonable amount of time.
3. The transportation office will notify the receiving programs and/or school to contact parents in a timely manner.

ACCIDENT/COLLISION/INCIDENT PROCEDURES

1. When an accident, collision, or incident impacting the bus (damage to bus or passengers) occurs, the driver will contact the Transportation Director immediately via radio.
2. The Transportation Director will notify the Superintendent/Principal.
3. After an accident, collision, or incident, the driver/passengers will not leave the vehicle, unless an unsafe condition exists, until the proper authorities have arrived.
4. The Transportation Director will ensure all necessary information is exchanged between the drivers involved in the incident.
5. The MVYPS Accident Form will be filled out and provided to the Transportation Director immediately.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION CODES OF CONDUCT

Proper student behavior is important. In order to maintain safety in the vehicles, students are expected to maintain proper behavior at all times. They are to follow the school's Code of Conduct as well as the Student Transportation Code of Conduct portion of the MVYPS Transportation Guidelines. If safety is jeopardized because of improper behavior, disciplinary action will be taken. The Driver has full authority as well as responsibility for control of the conduct of students while they are on the bus. Students must not be doing anything to annoy or distract the Driver. Drivers should be treated with respect and courtesy at all times. The procedures that follow will apply in most cases when the Driver believes the misconduct has created a safety hazard on the vehicle.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING PROBLEMS/COMPLAINTS

1. Concerns/questions/problems/complaints will be given to the Transportation Director.
2. The Transportation Director will contact the necessary parties (parent, administrator, driver, monitor, etc.) and work to solve the problem.
3. If necessary, a meeting will be held with all parties involved.

SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION

Specialized transportation is provided as a related service, as determined on a student's IEP based on the following state regulations:

603 CMR 28.00: Special Education

28.05: The Team Process and Development of the IEP

(5) **Transportation.** The Team shall determine whether the student requires transportation because of his or her disability in order to benefit from special education.

(a) **Regular transportation.** If the student does not require transportation as a result of his or her disability, then transportation shall be provided in the same manner as it would be provided for a student without disabilities. In such case, the IEP shall note that the student receives regular transportation, and if the school district provides transportation to similarly situated students without disabilities, the eligible student shall also receive transportation.

1. If regular transportation is noted on the student's IEP and the student is placed by the school district in a program located at a school other than the school the student would have attended if not eligible for special education, the student is entitled to receive transportation services to such program.
2. If regular transportation is noted on the student's IEP and the student is enrolled by his or her parents in a private school and receiving services under 603 CMR 28.03(1)(e), such student is not entitled to transportation services unless the school district provides transportation to students without disabilities attending such private school.

(b) **Special transportation.** If the Team determines that the student's disability requires transportation or specialized transportation arrangements in order to benefit from special education, the Team shall note on the student's IEP that the student requires special transportation. In such circumstances, transportation is a related service.

1. The Team shall determine necessary modifications, special equipment, assistance, need for qualified attendants on vehicles, and any particular precautions required by the student and shall document such determinations in the student's IEP. If specialized arrangements can be provided on regular transportation vehicles, the school district shall make such arrangements.
 - a. The district shall arrange to have eligible students who use wheelchairs transported in vehicles that do not require such students to be removed from their wheelchairs in order to enter or leave the vehicles; provided, however, that this requirement shall not be applicable where a Team or the student's physician recommends that the student regularly transfer in and out of conventional vehicles to or from a wheelchair for therapeutic or for independence training reasons.
 - b. The Team shall specify whether the student requires assistance in or out of the home, on or off of the vehicle, and in or out of the school. If such assistance is specified, the district shall ensure that it is provided.
 - c. The Team shall specify if the student has a particular need or problem that may cause difficulties during transportation, such as seizures, a tendency for motion sickness, behavioral concerns, or communication disabilities.

2. If special transportation is noted on the student's IEP, the student is entitled to receive transportation services to any program provided by the public school and in which the student participates.
3. If special transportation is noted on the student's IEP and the student is enrolled by his or her parents in a private school and receiving services under 603 CMR 28.03(1)(e), the school district's obligation to provide transportation shall be limited to transportation services within the geographic boundaries of the school district.

(c) In no event shall a school district allow transportation considerations to influence, modify, or determine the educational program required by any student in need of special education.

**Please refer to the MVYPS Transportation Guidelines for updated information regarding transportation processes and procedures. The guidelines also include a FAQ section regarding Specialized Transportation, including off-Island transportation for students placed in off-Island Special Education School.

{Adoption Date} by the Up-Island Regional School District School Committee

1 st Reading	—
2 nd Reading	—
3 rd Reading	—