

## ASPEN ACADEMY

*Adopted: April 15, 2008*

*Revised: January 16, 2018*

*MSBA/MASA Model Policy 707*

*Orig. 1995*

*Rev. 2012*

### **707 TRANSPORTATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the transportation of students consistent with the requirements of law.

#### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of the school district is to provide for the transportation of students in a manner which will protect their health, welfare, and safety.
- B. The school district recognizes that transportation is an essential part of the school district services to students and parents but further recognizes that transportation by school bus is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student.

#### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Child with a disability” includes every child identified under federal and state special education law as deaf or hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired, deafblind, or having a speech or language impairment, a physical impairment, other health disability, developmental cognitive disability, an emotional or behavioral disorder, specific learning disability, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, or severe multiple impairments, and who needs special education and related services, as determined by the rules of the Commissioner of Education. A licensed physician, an advanced practice nurse, or a licensed psychologist is qualified to make a diagnosis and determination of attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder for purposes of identifying a child with a disability. In addition, every child under age three, and at the school district’s discretion from age three to seven, who needs special instruction and services, as determined by the rules of the Commissioner, because the child has a substantial delay or has an identifiable physical or mental condition known to hinder normal development is a child with a disability. A child with a short-term or temporary physical or emotional illness or disability, as determined by the rules of the Commissioner, is not a child with a disability. (Minn. Stat. § 125A.02)

- B. “Home” is the legal residence of the child. In the discretion of the school district, “home” also may be defined as a licensed day care facility, school day care facility, a respite care facility, the residence of a relative, or the residence of a person chosen by the student’s parent or guardian as the home of a student for part or all of the day, if requested by the student’s parent or guardian, or an afterschool program for children operated by a political subdivision of the state, if the facility, residence, or program is within the attendance area of the school the student attends. Unless otherwise specifically provided by law, a homeless student is a resident of the school district if enrolled in the school district. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.92, Subd. 1(b)(1); Minn. Stat. § 127A.47, Subd. 2)
- C. “Homeless student” means a student, including a migratory student, who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes: students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; are awaiting foster care placement; have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, and migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in any of the preceding listed circumstances. (42 U.S.C. § 11434a)
- D. “Nonpublic school” means any school, church, or religious organization, or home school wherein a resident of Minnesota may legally fulfill the compulsory instruction requirements of Minn. Stat. §120A.22, which is located within the state, and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d, *et seq.*). (Minn. Stat. §123B.41, Subd. 9)
- E. “Student” means any student or child attending or required to attend any school as provided in Minnesota law and who is a resident or child of a resident of Minnesota. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.41, Subd. 11)

#### **IV. ELIGIBILITY**

- A. Upon the request of a parent or guardian, the school district shall provide transportation to and from school, at the expense of the school district, for all students who reside in district 719, except for those students whose transportation privileges have been revoked or have been voluntarily surrendered by the student’s parent or guardian. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.88, Subd. 1)

## **VII. SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS/STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY/ STUDENTS WITH TEMPORARY DISABILITIES**

- A. Students with a disability whose handicapped conditions are such that the student cannot be safely transported on the regular school bus and/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 or the day training and habilitation program attended by the student. The school district shall determine the type of vehicle used to transport students with a disability on the basis of the handicapping condition and applicable laws. This provision shall not be applicable to parents who transport their own child under a contract with the school district. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.88, Subd. 19; Minn. Rules Part 7470.1600)
- B. Each driver and aide assigned to a vehicle transporting students with a disability will be provided with appropriate training for the students in their care, will assist students with their safe ingress and egress from the bus, will ensure the proper use of protective safety devices, and will be provided with access to emergency health care information as required by law. (Minn. Rules Part 7470.1700)
- C. Any parent of a student with a disability who believes that the transportation services provided for that child are not in compliance with the applicable law may utilize the alternative dispute resolution and due process procedures provided for in Minn. Stat. Ch. 125A. (Minn. Rules Part 7470.1600, Subd. 2)

## **VIII. HOMELESS STUDENTS**

- A. Homeless students shall be provided with transportation services comparable to other students in the school district. (42 U.S.C. § 11432(e)(3)(C)(i)(III)(cc) and (g)(4)(A))
- B. Upon request by the student's parent, guardian, or homeless education liaison, the school district shall provide transportation for a homeless student as follows:
  - 1. A student who becomes homeless and is residing in a public or private shelter location or has other non-shelter living arrangements within district 719 shall be provided transportation to and from the school and the shelter or other non-shelter location if the student's transportation privileges have not been revoked. (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)(I))
  - 2. A student who becomes homeless and is residing in a public or private shelter location or has other non-shelter living arrangements outside of district 719 shall be provided transportation for a fee to and from the school

and the shelter or other non-shelter location if the student's transportation privileges have not been revoked, unless the school district and the school district in which the student is temporarily placed agree that the school district in which the student is temporarily placed shall provide transportation. (Minn. Stat. § 125A.51(f); 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)(II))

## **IX. AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES**

Transportation shall be provided on all regularly scheduled school days or make-up days. Transportation will not be provided during the summer school break. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.88, Subd. 21)

## **X. MANNER OF TRANSPORTATION**

The scheduling of routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, the determination of fees, and any other matter relating thereto shall be within the sole discretion, control and management of the school board and contracted bus company. The school district may, in its discretion, provide room and board, in lieu of transportation, to a student who may be more economically and conveniently provided for by that means. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.88, Subd. 1)

## **XI. RESTRICTIONS**

Transportation by the school district is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student. A student's eligibility to ride a school bus may be revoked for a violation of school bus safety or conduct policies, or violation of any other law governing student conduct on a school bus pursuant to the school district's discipline policy. Revocation of a student's bus riding privilege is not an exclusion, expulsion, or suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Revocation procedures for a student who is an individual with a disability under 20 U.S.C. § 1415 (Individuals with Disabilities Act), 29 U.S.C. § 794 (the Rehabilitation Act), and 42 U.S.C. § 12132, (Americans with Disabilities Act) are governed by these provisions. (Minn. Stat. § 121A.59)

## **XII. FEES**

A. In its discretion, the school district may charge fees for transportation of students to and from extracurricular activities conducted at locations other than school, where attendance is optional. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.36, Subd. 1(10))

- B. The school district may charge fees for transportation of students to and from school when authorized by law. If the school district charges fees for transportation of students to and from school, guidelines shall be established for that transportation to ensure that no student is denied transportation solely because of inability to pay. The school district also may waive fees for transportation if the student's parent is serving in, or within the past year has served in, active military service as defined in Minn. Stat. § 190.05. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.36, Subds. 1(11) and 6)

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.59 (Bus Transportation is a Privilege Not a Right)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Authorized Fees)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.41 (Educational Aids for Nonpublic School Children; Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent School Districts, Transportation)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.04 (Enrollment Options Programs in Border States)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.041 (Reciprocity with Adjoining States)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.08 (School Board's Approval to Enroll in Nonresident District)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 125A (Children With a Disability)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.02 (Children With a Disability, Defined)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.12 (Attendance in Another District)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.15 (Placement in Another District; Responsibility)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.51 (Placement of Children Without Disabilities; Education and Transportation)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.515 (Placement of Students; Approval of Education Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.65 (Attendance at Academies for the Deaf and Blind)  
Minn. Stat. § 126C.01 (General Education Revenue - Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 127A.47 (Payments to Resident and Nonresident Districts)  
Minn. Stat. § 190.05 (Definitions)  
Minn. Rules Part 7470.1600 (Transporting Pupils with Disability)  
Minn. Rules Part 7470.1700 (Drivers and Aides for Pupils with Disabilities)  
20 U.S.C. § 1415 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000d (Prohibition Against Exclusion from Participation in, Denial of Benefits of, and Discrimination under Federally Assisted Programs on Ground of Race, Color, or National Origin)

42 U.S.C. § 11431, *et seq.* (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001)

42 U.S.C. § 12132, *et seq.* (Americans With Disabilities Act)

**References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 708 (Transportation of Nonpublic School Students)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 709 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 710 (Extracurricular Transportation)  
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 2, Transportation