

Walk Zone and Barrier Street Information

During the 2018-2019 school year, the Transportation Department conducted a compliance audit of Transportation Operations. This audit was conducted in part because of parent and community involvement in drawing attention to inconsistencies with board policy. The audit included Board Policy EEA, adopted in 2001, which includes that students living one-half mile or more from student attendance areas will be entitled to free transportation to and from school.

During the audit, inconsistencies in the application of Board Policy EEA were identified, which resulted in walk zones both longer and shorter than the one-half mile parameter in Policy EEA.

We are making adjustments to correct inconsistencies. There have been three exception areas, which were identified during the 2005-2006 school year to meet the requirements of House Bill 1180. House Bill 1180 included the opportunity for Missouri school districts to identify hazardous walk zones and submit these additional exception zones to add state funding for transporting students by bus. Three areas were part of this exception zone and no additional exceptions were allowed to be added for state funding after the 2005-2006 school year.

The Transportation Department studied all school zones, identifying the one-half mile boundary set in Board Policy EEA and “barrier streets” based on criteria from research of other school districts’ policies.

Here are the Barrier Street Exception Criteria the LSR7 Transportation Department identified:

Elementary

- Street classified as a functional Freeway or Expressway or Primary Arterial
- Street with a speed limit of 45 mph or more
- Daily traffic volume of more than 20,000 vehicles per day and/or 180 vehicles per hour

Context

Board Policy EEA:

“Resident students living one-half mile or more from student attendance areas will be entitled to free transportation to and from school. The Board of Education may also provide transportation to resident students who live less than on-half mile from school.”

House Bill 1180

“No district shall be subject to a penalty when the district reports that certain students transported from a school bus stop, which existed in school year 2005-06 and who live less than one (1) mile from school, are being transported so these students do not have to cross a state highway or county arterial where there are no sidewalks, traffic signals, or a crossing guard to access the students’ school building.” 5 CSR 30-261.040 Item: 4-B

Timeline

2001 Board Policy EEA adopted

2005-2006 Three exception areas identified according to House Bill 1180, which resulted in district-provided transportation for students living less than one-half mile from school. Could establish hazardous walk zones for removing state funding penalty.

2018-2019 Transportation Department conducts compliance audit of Transportation Operations

Secondary

- Street classified as a functional Freeway or Expressway or Primary Arterial
- Street with a speed limit of 45 mph or more

General considerations for all grade levels

- Is there a walkway that is:
 - at least 4 feet wide?
 - adjacent to the road?
 - free from drainage ditches, sluiceways, swales or channels, where students may walk without being required to walk on the road surface?
 - *additional note: no requirement for the walkway to be a sidewalk and/or paved surface
- Does the road have five lanes or more, not including turn lanes?

Certain primary arterial segments may be exempted from barrier street status if special conditions are met that allow students to cross at a “protected” intersection. Such exempted roads must meet all of the following criteria:

- A crossing guard, traffic enforcement officer, crosswalk, stop sign or other traffic control signal is present during the times students walk to and from school.
- The road has a traffic volume of less than 180 vehicles per hour, per direction, during the time students walk to and from school.

For any questions about the compliance audit and policies, please contact the LSR7 Transportation Department at (816) 986-4BUS (4287).

Thank you to our families and community for their ongoing vigilance and collaboration in helping us make sure our students’ transportation needs are met safely and efficiently.