

8601 STUDENT SUPERVISION AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL

Introduction/Background

Per Policy 8600 Transportation, the Board of Education will provide (free) transportation to and from school to all public school students, within the district, who live beyond Two (2.0) miles from the school they attend for students in Grades Pre-Kindergarten to Eight. Transportation eligibility shall be determined based on attendance area boundary, unless transportation is required in a child's IEP or district program.

Additionally, and where practicable, Policy 8600 also provides that the Board of Education may authorize the transportation of other students to and from public school. As such, the Board of Education currently offers courtesy bussing to all students in grades Pre-K – Five within their attendance area boundary or location determined by the child's IEP or district program.

In some cases, students are placed outside of their attendance area boundary; utilize the CARE Program or otherwise become ineligible for courtesy transportation. In those cases parents/guardians are responsible for the transportation of their children. In other cases, parents/guardians elect to waive district provided transportation and are responsible for the transportation of their children.

In the New Jersey Supreme Court case, *Jerkins v. Anderson, et al*, the Court indicated dangers that exist for younger students at dismissal as children are susceptible to numerous risks, including negligent conduct, when leaving school property.

Because of these risks, the Board of Education adopts and requires the implementation of Policy 8601 for the supervision of younger students after dismissal. The supervision provisions of Policy 8601 are applicable to parents or legal guardians of students attending district-operated schools or programs in grades Pre-K to Five who are not eligible for district-provided transportation after dismissal or are eligible and elect not to use district-provided transportation after dismissal.

A student attending a district-operated school or program in grades Pre-K to Five, where the student is not eligible for district-provided transportation or is eligible and child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) elect not to use district-provided transportation after dismissal will only be released to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or escort(s) designated by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) designated escort(s) must be at least 12 years old.

POLICY

OPERATIONS

8601/page 2 of 4

Student Supervision After School Dismissal

Exceptions to this Policy will be considered on a case by case basis and must be submitted in writing to the Principal or program administrator who will seek the approval of the Superintendent and, where applicable, the Board of Education.

Authorization/Request for Release

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) requesting their child(ren) be released to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or parent(s) or legal guardian(s)-designated escort after dismissal must provide a letter to the Principal listing the names, and relationship to the child, of those individuals to whom the child may be released. The letter should state that the escorts designated by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are 12 years of age or over. Finally the letter shall state that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are aware of this policy and its placement in the Student Code of Conduct; the school calendar, available on the district website and knowledge of the school dismissal plan.

This letter/request shall be effective for the duration of the school year and must be resubmitted every year. A parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may change their request by submitting a written letter to the Principal or program administrator changing the escorts authorized to whom the child may be released.

The Principal or program administrator upon receiving the letter/request shall notify the appropriate school staff member(s) who has supervision of the student at dismissal time at the end of the school day of the parent's or legal guardian's request. The supervising staff member that receives such notice shall retain supervision of the student when other students are dismissed from school at the end of the school day.

Dismissal Plan

Each Principal or program administrator will develop and implement a written Student Supervision After School Dismissal Plan for their school building or program location. This Plan shall include the school building's or program's supervision procedures for students at the end of the school day to the designated area in the school building or program and the location of the designated area in the school building or program. The Plan shall be based on the school's or program's ability to provide supervision, the accessibility for the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort to pick-up the child without disrupting dismissal of the remaining school population, and other considerations unique to the school building or program location. The school's or program's Student Supervision After School Dismissal Plan shall be provided to all parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that have submitted a request.

POLICY

OPERATIONS

8601/page 3 of 4

Student Supervision After School Dismissal

The student(s) shall be supervised by school staff in the designated area of the building and will only be released when the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort arrives to pick up the student.

In order to ensure the safety of other students being dismissed from school in accordance with typical school dismissal protocol, to limit interaction of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escorts with other students within the building, and to avoid traffic and vehicular safety problems outside the school building, the Principal or program administrator may prohibit the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort from entering the school building until a time period after school has dismissed or until school buses and other vehicular traffic have cleared the school site. This determination shall be made by each Principal or program administrator after considering the unique circumstances at the school building and the building's typical dismissal protocol.

In the event the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort does not arrive to pick up their child(ren) after the dismissal time of school, the Principal or designee will attempt to contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) using the district's emergency call procedures.

In the event of an emergency such that, when an unforeseen event prevents a parent or legal guardian or designated escort from arriving for the child(ren) at dismissal within the time period designated by the Principal or program administrator, the student will be relocated to the Main Office in the school building and will remain in the Main Office supervised by the Main Office staff until the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort arrives and signs the student out of school.

Where available, the student may be relocated to the CARE Program where the student will be supervised by after-school program staff until the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort arrives and signs the student out of the CARE Program.

In this circumstance, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may be subject to after-school program fees if it is determined by the Principal or program administrator that the frequency of emergencies causing the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort to be delayed in picking-up the student is excessive.

The school will provide parent(s) or legal guardian(s) information regarding any supervised after-school services, if any, that may be available to students at the school's facilities after formal school dismissal.

POLICY

OPERATIONS

8601/page 4 of 4

Student Supervision After School Dismissal

If repeated attempts to locate the parent(s), legal guardian(s) or authorized escort(s) fail, the Principal shall, in his/her discretion, contact law enforcement and/or Division of Child Protection and Permanency to assist.

Publication of Policy

This Policy shall be published in the Student Code of Conduct. In addition, the school district shall make available to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in the beginning of the school year, the school's calendar to include the starting and dismissal times for full session, half-session, and early dismissal days due to weather or other emergencies. In addition, any changes to the school's calendar made during the school year shall be provided to parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Adopted:

References:

Policy 8600; *Jerkins v. Anderson, et al.*