

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 719  
PRIOR LAKE - SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS

## **708 TRANSPORTATION OF NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to address transportation rights of nonpublic school students and to provide equality of treatment in transporting such students pursuant to law.

### **II. DEFINITION**

### **III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It is the policy of the school district to recognize the rights of nonpublic school students and to provide equal transportation to those students as required by law.

#### **A. ELIGIBILITY**

1. The school district shall provide equal transportation within the school district for all students to any school when transportation is deemed necessary by the school district because of distance or traffic conditions in like manner and form as provided in Minnesota Statutes.
2. The school district shall provide the necessary transportation within school district boundaries between the nonpublic school and a public school or neutral site for nonpublic school students who are provided pupil support services, if the school district elects to provide pupil support services at a site other than a nonpublic school.
3. When transportation is provided, the scheduling of routes, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of students and any other matter relating thereto shall be within the sole discretion, control and management of the school district.
4. The school board and a nonpublic school may mutually agree to a written plan for the board to provide nonpublic pupil transportation to nonpublic school students. The school district must report the number of nonpublic school students transported and the nonpublic pupil transportation expenditures incurred in the form and manner specified by the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.
5. If the school board provides pupil transportation through the school's employees, the school board may transport nonpublic school students according to the plan and retain the nonpublic pupil transportation aid attributable to that plan. A nonpublic school may make a payment to the school district to cover additional transportation services agreed to in the written plan for nonpublic pupil transportation services not required under Minnesota Statutes, sections 123B.84 to 123B.87.
6. A school board that contracts for pupil transportation services may enter into a contractual arrangement with a school bus contractor according to the written plan adopted by the school board and the nonpublic school to transport nonpublic school students and retain the nonpublic pupil transportation aid attributable to that plan for the purposes of paying the school bus contractor. A nonpublic school may make a payment to the school district to cover additional transportation services agreed to in the written plan for nonpublic pupil

transportation services included in the contract that are not required under Minnesota Statutes, sections 123B.84 to 123B.87.

#### Students Attending Nonpublic Schools within the Confines of Independent School District 719

Children attending non-public schools shall receive transportation services. The school district shall try to schedule separate routes for non-public school children, when the cost per student is similar to the cost for transportation public school students. When the cost for transportation non-public students exceeds the cost established for public school students, other methods of transportation or scheduling will be devised.

It shall be the responsibility of the non-public school to develop its calendar and starting/dismissal times to coordinate with Independent School District 719.

Non-public schools shall provide the school district with a list of students, respective addresses and grade level by June 1 for the succeeding school year and shall also provide updated student information as changes occur. A resident pupil who attends a non-public school and is eligible for transportation services shall abide by all walking, riding and conduct rules that pertain to public school students. It shall be the responsibility of each non-public school to provide the required safety and in-service training.

The school district shall attempt to establish its calendar and starting/dismissal times for the succeeding year by April 1. Non-public schools shall attempt to make the same determination by May 1. The school district's Director of Operations and/or Transportation Coordinator shall provide bus route information by August 15 for the succeeding school year, provided that the school district and non-public schools have made decisions on calendars and starting/dismissal times in adequate time for scheduling to be provided.

#### Students Attending Non-Public Schools Outside the Confines of Independent School District 719

The district shall enter into agreements with individuals or corporations to assume financial responsibility for that portion of transportation services within Independent School District 719 required in the transportation of students in grades 9-12 to non-public schools.

In addition, the district shall enter into agreements with individuals or corporations to assume financial responsibility for that portion of transportation services within Independent School District 719 required to transport students in grades K-8 under the following conditions:

1. When a non-public school of the student's choice is not operated within the confines of Independent School District 719.
2. When enrollment of a student in a school of his/her choice is not possible due to over enrollment in said school. The transportation of these students shall be regulated by a contract approved by the School Board. These contracts shall have been approved by the School Board prior to June 10 of the year of attendance and the contract holder shall submit a written claim for reimbursement prior to September 1 of the year of attendance. Failure to have a contract in effect or to claim reimbursement will result in the loss of any compensation.

#### Non-Resident Student Attending Non-Public School Within the Confines of Independent School District 719

The district may authorize transportation for non-resident students attending non-public schools within the confines of Independent School District 719 upon fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Payment of that portion of transportation costs not reimbursed by the State of Minnesota.
2. No route changes will be authorized to accommodate students receiving transportation services under the provisions of this section.
3. In the event that the pick-up point is in another district, approval from the district of residence must be obtained.

**B. SPECIAL EDUCATION/DISABLED STUDENTS**

(Refer to Policy 707)

**C. APPLICATION OF GENERAL POLICY**

The provisions of the school district's policy on transportation of public school students shall apply to the transportation of nonpublic school students except as specifically provided herein.

School Board Adoption: July 10, 2023

An Equal Opportunity School District