

Transportation Services for Chartered Nonpublic Schools

(Students not residing in Mason City or Lakota Local school districts)

[Ohio law](#) provides requirements on the transportation of students to and from their district, chartered nonpublic school or community school. A student enrolled in a chartered nonpublic school may be entitled to student transportation services from their district of residence.

Currently, Mason City and Lakota Local school districts provide transportation for El-Sewedy International Academy of Cincinnati students.

Parents or guardians are encouraged to notify the public district of residence as soon as possible if they wish their child to be considered for transportation services. The district can help determine if the student is eligible for transportation.

Determining Eligibility for Transportation Services

[Ohio law](#) requires the district of residence to transport eligible students to and from their enrolled chartered nonpublic or community school. [Ohio law](#) establishes several factors in identifying whether a student is eligible for transportation services.

1. **Issuance of Charter:** The Ohio Department of Education has issued or is in the process of issuing a charter for the nonpublic or community school that the student is attending.
2. **Residency:** Student is a resident of the district in which he/she is requesting transportation.
3. **K-8 Students More Than Two Miles:** Student is in grades kindergarten through eight and lives more than two miles from the school of attendance.
4. **High school students More Than Two Miles:** Student is in grades nine through 12 and lives more than two miles from the district building they would attend are eligible for transportation services if the district transports resident high school students to district high schools.
5. **Thirty Minutes Direct Travel Time:** A district is not required to transport elementary or high school students to and from a nonpublic or community school where such transportation would require more than 30 minutes of direct travel time as measured by school bus from the enrolled nonpublic or community school to the public school building the students would be assigned if attending the public school designated by the district of residence. If necessary, the district will conduct an eligibility timing that will serve as the initial time requirement for the transportation request.

Determination of Impractical to Transport

Even if a student is eligible for transportation services, a district may make a [determination of impracticality](#). In this situation, the district must offer the parent or guardian payment in lieu of providing such transportation.

[Under Ohio law](#), a district may determine it is impractical to transport a student who is eligible for transportation to and from a school after considering each of the following factors:

- (1) The time and distance required to provide the transportation;
- (2) The number of pupils to be transported;
- (3) The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel, and administration;
- (4) Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation;
- (5) Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules;
- (6) Whether other reimbursable types of transportation are available.

Offer of Payment in Lieu of Transportation

After passing the resolution declaring the impracticality of transportation, **the district board must offer to provide payment in lieu of transportation.** The district will:

- (1) Inform the parent of the district's resolution;
- (2) Inform the parent of the right of the student's parent or guardian to accept the offer of payment in lieu of transportation or to reject the offer and instead request the Ohio Department of Education initiate mediation procedures; and
- (3) Provide the parent a contract or other form on which the parent has the option to accept or reject the payment in lieu of transportation offer.

If the parent or guardian accepts the offer of payment in lieu of providing transportation, the school district board of education must pay the parent an amount that is:

- Not less than 50% of the statewide average cost of pupil transportation for the previous school year;
- No more than the full amount of the statewide average cost of pupil transportation for the previous school year.
- Payment may be prorated if the time period involved is only part of the school year.

For the complete guide to Transportation Services for Chartered Nonpublic and Community School Students please visit:

<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Transportation/Transportation-Rules-and-Regulations/Nonpublic-and-Community-School-Transportation-Manual-Nov22.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>