

TRANSPORTATION TO CHILDCARE LOCATIONS FOR GRADES K-8

Bethlehem Central School District shall provide transportation to students in grades K-8 between before/after childcare locations and school, but only for children attending public or nonpublic schools located within the school district boundaries.

Transportation requests for students attending childcare locations must be received by the district no later than April 1st preceding the beginning of the next school year, and must be resubmitted for every school year thereafter no later than April 1st. If a student moves into the district later than April 1st, the request must be received within thirty days of establishing residence in the district.

All late requests, however, shall be considered by the Board of Education on the basis of each case's merits. Criteria used by the Board in judging whether to accept a late request may include, but not be limited to, the following: requirements under State Education Law, whether transportation will require additional cost and/or lengthen the ride time for other students, and, if so, the reasonableness of the excuse for the late request. Approved requests received during the school year may take up to 5 business days to process. Parents are strongly advised to call the transportation department before finalizing daycare location plans after April 1st.

Requests for changes to childcare locations may be made before August 1st and after the third Monday in September. [No changes will be made within this period of time to allow the transportation office to adjust to the opening of school and to manage the bus runs efficiently].

A childcare location shall mean a place situated within the school district, other than the child's home, where care for less than 24 hours a day is provided on a regular basis. This definition includes, but is not limited to, a variety of childcare services such as New York State licensed day care centers and in-home care by relatives and non-relatives. In-home shall mean at the home of the affected child and or the home of the relative or non-relative, which is within the child's school zone boundary. Child day care, as defined in Section 390 of the Social Service law shall not refer to care provided in: (A) a day camp, as defined in the state sanitary code, *or* (B) an after-school program operated for the purpose of religious education, sports, or recreation.

Because Bethlehem Central School District has more than one elementary school, such transportation will be restricted to child care locations within the attendance zone of the school the child attends, except where the child program is licensed or registered pursuant to Section 390 of the Social Services Law. Transportation to such licensed or registered programs is not limited to a school attendance zone, but is provided anywhere within the school district boundaries. The parent or guardian requesting childcare transportation, to a licensed NYS daycare location, outside the child's school attendance zone, acknowledges that the request may require a longer ride time and may include a transfer point.

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Children are eligible for such transportation where the distance between the childcare location and school exceeds the district's eligibility distance for transportation between home and school. Consequently, a child may be eligible for transportation to or from a child care location even though not eligible for transportation to or from home.

Ref: Education Law

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