

TRANSPORTATION IN UNUSUALLY HAZARDOUS AREAS

Policy 751.6

Waunakee Community School District

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Under the ultimate direction of the District Administrator, the Executive Director of Operations shall have primary administrative responsibility for periodically reviewing and making recommendations for possible amendments to the District plan that (1) identifies areas of unusual hazard (if any) that students must face in walking to and from school; and (2) identifies procedures or other remedies that are intended as safeguards that will sufficiently remove or diminish the applicable hazard(s). District-provided transportation is a possible remedy for addressing an unusual hazard, but it is not the only possible remedy.

The District's plan shall address (1) unusual hazards in the areas surrounding any applicable public or private school, within which area the District does not provide student transportation to the students who are enrolled in that school; (2) any areas of unusual hazard that one or more students is required to traverse on the student's walking route to the student's District-designated bus stop.

In evaluating and identifying possible unusual hazards, the School Board and its designees will use the Department of Public Instruction's definition of "unusual hazard" and consider at least the following criteria:

- The ages of affected students, with the possibility that certain areas may be designated as unusually hazardous for certain age levels
- The availability of sidewalks, pedestrian paths, or similar walking space outside of the road/highway
- The availability and width of any pedestrian-use shoulder area of a road/highway
- Traffic counts/rates, to the extent reasonably available from the state, county, or applicable municipality (including at normal school arrival and dismissal times)
- Speed limits
- The presence or absence of designated pedestrian crosswalks
- The type of traffic control signs or devices (if any) at relevant areas of the road/highway
- The presence or absence of crossing guards
- If applicable, railroad crossings and the types of crossing controls that are in place
- If applicable, temporary hazards such as construction projects or street repairs

The above-listed criteria are not arranged in priority order, and no single factor is necessarily determinative of a designation. Rather, unusual hazards will be designated based on a holistic assessment of relevant facts and circumstances, which may include consideration of additional conditions/criteria not expressly listed in this policy. The District will make reasonable efforts to treat areas with materially the same circumstances in a consistent manner

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Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

[Section 121.54](#)

[state mandated transportation, generally; authority of annual meeting to elect to provide additional transportation]

[Section 121.54\(9\)\(a\)](#)

[mandate to have a district plan for areas of unusual hazard; procedures for filing and review of the plan by the county sheriff and DPI]

[Section 121.54\(9\)\(am\)](#)

[complaints by aggrieved persons alleging an area of unusual hazard exists that has not been identified by the district]

[Section 121.54\(9\)\(b\)](#)

[aggrieved persons may request the state superintendent to conduct a hearing on a district plan or plan amendment]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

[Ch. PI 1](#)

[submission and processing of complaints and appeals to the state superintendent]

[Ch. PI 7](#)

[state regulatory definition of unusually hazardous areas]

Cross References:

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