

**PUPIL TRANSPORTATION FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENTS**  
**Q&A**  
**NOVEMBER 2012**  
**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – OFFICE OF QUALITY SCHOOL CHOICE AND FUNDING**

This document is intended as a supplement to the position paper "[Transportation Services for Nonpublic and Community School Students](#)." Some community schools and parents of community school students have had questions regarding pupil transportation provided by a public school district, in particular questions about enrollment and residency verification for transportation services.

**Q1:** For community school students, is proof of residency for transportation purposes the same thing as proof of residency for payment purposes?

**A1:** Yes. ORC 3314.09 governs transportation by a traditional school district of its native students to and from a community school. This section of the law requires a school district to provide transportation services per ORC 3327.01 to its district's native students. A "native student" is a student entitled to attend school in the school district under ORC 3313.64 and 3313.65. ORC 3314.11 similarly points to the same "entitled to attend per ORC 3313.64 and 3313.65" language to determine the school district from which payments to the community school are deducted.

For payment purposes, the term "district of residence" is often used, but the more precise definition is "the district in which the student is entitled to attend school under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code." In SOES, for payment purposes, the community school should be listing the district in which the student is entitled to attend school.

**Q2:** For a community school student, does proving the child's residency in a district entitle the student to pupil transportation?

**A2:** No. Students are only entitled to transportation services as provided for in ORC 3327.01. For many students living in the district, the district may not be required to transport, based on the several factors, including special education status, grade level, and distance to the school. See the position paper "Transportation Services for Nonpublic and Community School Students" for more details.

**Q3:** Are there any other exceptions to the general rule in ORC 3314.09, which requires that a board of education provide transportation services to its native students attending a community school?

**A3:** Yes. A traditional school district is not required to provide transportation for any native student enrolled in a community school if the district board of education has entered into an agreement under ORC 3314.091 with the community school's governing authority that designates the community school as responsible for providing or arranging for the transportation of the district's native students to and from the community school.

**Q4:** Do traditional school districts follow the same process for determination of where the community school student is "entitled to attend" and the student's pick up/drop off point for transportation purposes?

- A4: Not necessarily. "Where the student is entitled to attend" can be associated with an address of a parent or guardian, and is used to determine which traditional school district provides both funding for the community school and is responsible for transportation of the student. However, in special cases, a student may actually reside at a different address. Generally, it will be helpful for community schools to note this type of situation in SOES. Traditional school districts may use their own policies to determine the proper bus stop for the student.
- Q5: If a school district, through the process of providing school bus transportation, has reason to believe that the community school's determination of the "district the student is entitled to attend" is incorrect (for instance, the family has moved), can it use this information to question the community school's determination?
- A5: Yes. The school district should follow the process outlined in ORC3314.11 and use the flagging system in SOES. Again, cooperation and dialogue between the school district and the community school is essential.
- Q6: What help can ODE provide?
- A6: The whole process of determining where the student is entitled to attend depends on the cooperation and good will of the school district and community school staff. Typically school district and community school staff should work together to properly identify where the student is entitled to attend and whether the child is eligible for transportation. In instances where the process is not working smoothly, schools should feel free to call on ODE area coordinators or pupil transportation staff to seek clarification or request assistance.
- Q7: If a school district has a residency determination process for transportation purposes, does this override the determination of the school district where the student is "entitled to attend" for fiscal purposes in ORC 3314.11?
- A7: No. The process of determination for fiscal purposes is valid for all community school students.
- Q8: Can a school district make parents of community school students apply for pupil transportation and/or require the parent to provide certain documentation to verify residency?
- A8: No. The determination of which district is required to provide transportation is the same determination that is made through the "entitled to attend" process described in ORC 3314.11. School districts should follow the process outlined in ORC 3314.11 to give input or resolve disputes regarding the "entitled to attend" district determination. The district may, however, communicate with the parent to determine the proper bus stop or make other transportation decisions such as "payment in lieu" based on impracticability under ORC 3327.02.

#### REFERENCES:

[3314.09 Transportation of native students provided by board of each school district.](#)

[3314.11 Verification of residency.](#)

[3327.01 Transportation of pupils.](#)