

Position paper  
Transportation services for calamity days  
Updated February 5, 2009

This guidance is issued with respect to pupil transportation services provided by public schools for students who attend nonpublic, community, or vocational education programs.

Law and rule establish authority for public schools to close for calamity purposes. These closures also typically affect nonpublic, community, or vocational schools who receive students that are transported by those public schools.

When public schools are required to make up days of education, transportation is provided. To preserve the 'same basis' nature of transportation, public schools should also provide transportation services for students who attend nonpublic, community, or vocational schools when they schedule make-up days.

We recommend that administrators from nonpublic, community, and vocational schools communicate with their public school counterparts to work out acceptable schedules which eliminate conflicts when buses are already in use for other purposes.. Certainly sufficient lead time for the transporting agency to make arrangements is requisite to their ability to provide the service requested.

It is possible that the exact routing and time schedule of the buses provided on these days may be different from what students have received on traditional calendar days. With sufficient notice of the requested service by the nonpublic, community, or vocational school administrator, the public school transportation staff will be able to coordinate and communicate the transportation schedule used on the make-up days.

We find this expectation of transportation on make-up days to be consistent with the Ohio Attorney General's Opinion 83-096.

For questions regarding this paper, please contact the pupil transportation office of the Ohio Department of Education.