



Review of transportation requirements for vocational students
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Whenever a public school district discontinues high school transportation, a question arises concerning the responsibility of the district to provide transportation for resident pupils attending a joint vocational school or program. The responsibility of the district for transportation has to be separated into two components: 1) Transportation of the student from home to school and then back home, and 2) Transportation of the student from the resident school district high school to the vocational campus and then back to the resident district high school.

Transportation for any student is based upon the Ohio Revised Code section 3327.01, which requires eligible students in grades kindergarten through 8 to receive school transportation service. Under this requirement, clearly the transportation of high school students to and from home is an elective service which a district may choose to provide.

The additional transportation factor that must be considered with respect to vocational education is the jointure agreement that public districts have entered into for the provision of vocational programs for their students. The vast majority of these contracts contain language that establishes the responsibility of the participating district to provide its pupils with transportation to and from the vocational school.

To promote a consistent best practice for these students, Am. Sub. H.B. 66 as signed into law in 2005 contained language amending ORC 3327.01. That language is as follows:

In all city, local, and exempted village school districts where pupil transportation is required under a career-technical plan approved by the state board of education under section 3313.90 of the Revised Code, for any student attending a career-technical program operated by another school district, including a joint vocational school district, as prescribed under that section, the board of education of the student's district of residence shall provide transportation from the public high school operated by that district to which the student is assigned to the career-technical program.

Analyzing the requirements, our guidance based upon the jointure agreements and ORC is as follows:

- 1) Transportation service from home to school and then back need not be provided to vocational students if that service is not also provided for all other high school students under district policy.
- 2) Transportation service from the district high school to the vocational campus and then back to the resident district high school must be provided for vocational students. This is commonly described as a shuttle service from the high school to the campus housing the vocational program.