

## **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

- I.** The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide transportation for students that are not within walking distance of the school and those that are within the walking distance that do not have walking routes which meet an acceptable level of safety. The regulations and procedures pursuant to this policy are directed toward determining eligibility for school bus service and any criteria utilized to determine exceptions for students residing in the "walking area." The regulations and procedures address and provide direction relative to operations-related components of the student transportation program.
- II.** The policy does not apply to students needing special transportation. Transportation for students needing special transportation services will be provided in accordance with the individual needs of the student subject to availability of funding.
- III.** The Board of Education's responsibility for the safety of students that ride buses to school shall begin when the student enters the bus. Conversely, its responsibility shall end when the student exits the bus at the designated bus stop at the end of the school day. The Board of Education's responsibility for students walking to and from school shall begin when the student enters upon, and ends when the student exits from, school property.
- IV.** Parents and school system staff are expected to promote safe walking practices, safe behavior at a bus stop, and safe behavior on the bus. Parental assistance may be needed on those days when inclement weather makes walking to and from school or school bus stops difficult.
- V.** This policy is applicable to all students, public and nonpublic, for whom bus transportation is provided by the Talbot County Public School System except for special education service.