

Overview

In March 2015, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved changes to Bulletin 126 regarding transportation for state-authorized charter schools. This policy outlines the expectations for provision of transportation to eligible students. The LDE and BESE believe that this policy will ensure equity for all students and expand school choice for Louisiana families.

Policy Language

The policy language approved by BESE is below and also may be found in [Bulletin 126, "Charter Schools"](#):

§2801. Transportation Requirements

- A. Each BESE authorized charter operator shall provide free transportation to and from school to any eligible students under the following conditions:
 - 1. when the student resides more than 1 mile from the school of attendance;
 - 2. when the student resides within the parish or local school district in which the school is physically located.
- B. BESE authorized charter operators that are in operation during the 2015-2016 school year must provide transportation to all eligible students by the 2018-2019 school year. BESE authorized charter operators that begin operation in the 2016-2017 school year must provide transportation immediately.
- C. The LDE will develop a waiver process to exempt Type 2 charter schools with a unique mission, virtual schools, or schools upon which the transportation requirement would create an undue financial burden.
- D. The LDE will approve charter school transportation plans to ensure compliance with applicable law and policy.

Transportation Plans

As outlined in Bulletin 126, the Louisiana Department of Education is responsible for approving Transportation Plans for all state-authorized charter schools.

Transportation Plans, which shall include the subsequent page of this document and all relevant supporting documentation, should be submitted to the LDE by **Friday, August 28, 2015**. Charter operators will be required to submit Transportation Plans in the year prior to the renewal of the school's charter contract, or when the method of providing transportation to eligible students changes. Charter Management Organizations may submit separate plans for individual schools or one plan for the entire organization.

Transportation Oversight

Each school is expected to abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the approved Transportation Plan, as approved by the LDE. Schools that fall out of compliance with existing BESE policy or do not follow the guidelines set forth in their approved Transportation Plans may be subject to LDE intervention procedures as outlined in the Charter School Performance Compact.

Louisiana Charter School Transportation Data Sheet		Charter Type: <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	
School Name(s):		CMO Name (if applicable):	
Transportation Point of Contact Name:			
Transportation Point of Contact Phone:			
Transportation Point of Contact Email:			
Method(s) of transportation provided to students:		Check all that apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership with local school district <input type="checkbox"/> Contracting with private transportation provider(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Buses or vans owned by school <input type="checkbox"/> Providing students access to public transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe in attached documents) 	

In addition to the information listed in the table above, LEAs should attach and submit the transportation policy as outlined in the student handbook. An LEA's transportation policy must include the process implemented when the parent or guardian of a student under the age of 10 or with a relevant transportation accommodation in the student's IEP is not at the bus stop. Transportation policies may also include the following information:

- Student bus behavior expectations that align with the school's class behavior expectations and the BESE Model Master Discipline Plan
- Procedures for assigning bus stops to new students
- Procedure for parents and students to notify the school of issues involving transportation
- Bus driver behavior expectations
- Communication procedures between the bus operator, the school, and parents in the event of an emergency situation

Assurance is hereby made to the State Department of Education that this Transportation Plan has been developed in compliance with all applicable BESE policies and procedures, and that all transportation employees either contracted with or employed directly by the LEA have received required background checks through the LBCI. All documentation relevant to this Transportation Plan shall be maintained on file by the local education agency.

CMO or School Leader Signature

Date