



NCPTA Position Paper

Parental Responsibility & School Bus Stops

One of the primary goals of the North Carolina Pupil Transportation is to ensure safety in all aspects of pupil transportation. It is imperative that our students transported to and from school using North Carolina school buses have a safe trip to and from school. Included in that trip to and from school is ensuring student safety on the way to, from and while at assigned school bus stops. This position paper focuses on ensuring student safety related to school bus stops and is intended to clarify the NPTPA's position on the responsibility for supervision of students that access assigned school bus stops.

Transportation Departments continually receive a seemingly unlimited number of requests to evaluate the location of bus stops to ensure that they are safe to access for students. Local Board's of Education have policies and procedures for determining the placement of bus stops, which are based on state law 115C-246. While all LEA's endeavor to place bus stops in locations that are deemed safe for students and that are in compliance with state law, there is no law or state board policy that addresses supervision of students on the way to, from and while at school bus stops.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the NCPTA, that the following statement(s) apply to all public school bus stops in the State of North Carolina:

Parents or guardians are responsible for the safety, conduct, and the timely arrival of their children to, from, and at the designated school bus stop before the arrival of the school bus for pick up and transport to school and the timely departure of the child after the school bus leaves the designated school bus stop after transporting the children from school. The phrase "arrival of the school bus" includes the time that the school bus assigned to the school bus stop activates the required pedestrian safety devices, stops and loads or unloads students until the school bus deactivates all pedestrian safety devices.

NCPTA further recommends that the State Board of Education adopt this statement as a part of the Board's policy that governs student transportation in North Carolina.