

SCHOOL BUS STOP EVALUATION CRITERIA

The New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Department of safety have developed this form to assist school districts in evaluating school bus stops. School districts should have a written policy that provides specific guidelines for administrators to use when establishing school bus stops and routes. All stops and routes should be evaluated regularly not only for safety reasons, but to assure that State laws and local policies are being followed.

Evaluated by: _____	Agency: _____
Reason for Evaluation: _____	
Location of Stop: _____	
Date Evaluated: ____ / ____ / ____	Time Evaluated: ____ am ____ pm
Pick-up/Drop-off Time: ____ am ____ pm	
This area is: Residential ____ Commercial ____ Industrial ____ Other ____	
Posted speed limit _____ MPH	
During observation, traffic was: ____ Light ____ Medium ____ Heavy	
Type of Vehicles: _____	
Number of students at stop: _____ Grade level of students: _____	

SCHOOL BUS STOP EVALUATION CRITERIA	YES	NO	N/A
1. Is the stop located at least 100 feet prior to a right-turn lane?			
2. Is the stop located in a right-turn lane?			
3. Is the stop located at least 100 feet after an acceleration/merge lane?			
4. Is the stop located in an acceleration/merge lane?			
5. Is the stop located at least 300 feet from railroad tracks?			
6. Is the stop visible to motorists from a minimum distance of 500 feet in a 35 MPH or less speed zone?			
7. Is the stop visible to motorists from a minimum distance of 750 feet in a speed zone above 35 MPH?			
8. Has a school "SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD" sign been placed prior to the stop if it has been determined to have restricted sight (500 feet or less) visibility due to being placed on the crest/downgrade of a hill or at some point on a curve, for example?			
9. Is the stop located on a roadway that is used by heavy, commercial truck traffic?			
10. If the stop is located near a retention pond or similar body of water, is there a physical barrier between the stop and the water, i.e. a guardrail or fence?			
11. Is some type of road construction or other construction taking place in an area that poses a danger to students at the stop?			
12. Is the stop located near an access/egress driveway of a commercial strip mall or apartment complex which would cause students to walk across traffic moving at speeds greater than 5 MPH?			
13. Is the stop free of obstructions that lessen student, motorist, and school bus driver visibility including shrubbery, utility poles, walls, fences, trees, parked cars, and other obstructions?			
14. Does the location of the stop allow for sufficient water run-off/drainage?			

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15. Is the next closest stop on the same side of the roadway that serves the same school at least ¼ mile away (except in special circumstances such as overcrowded stops)?			
16. Is the stop located within ¼ mile of another stop located on the opposing side of the same roadway that serves the same school (except in special circumstances such as overcrowded stops)?			
17. Is there sufficient room at the stop away from the roadway for students to safety wait for the school bus?			
18. Does the physical space that the stop occupies provide sufficient room for the number of students using the stop?			
19. Is there sufficient room at the stop for students to de-board the bus then walk at least 15 feet away from the bus before it departs the stop?			
20. If students cross a 4 or 6 lane roadway, is there a crosswalk with pedestrian signals near the bus stop?			
21. In the absence of a sidewalk, is there a space/path that is at least 4 feet wide that provides access/egress to/from the stop?			
22. If the bus stop location requires that the bus reverse direction, is there sufficient space to allow this task to be accomplished?			

SKETCH OF SCHOOL BUS STOP (be sure to note all relevant traffic signals, signs, pavement markings, sight obstructions, and student and motorist behavior and roadway deficiencies at the stop)

COMMENTS (be sure to note any unusual pedestrian or vehicular movements that occurred during the evaluation period):

Evaluator Signature

Date

NOTE:

The established of school bus stops is the responsibility of the school district pursuant to RSA 189:8, which in part reads: **“School districts shall assure that pupils shall not be subject to unsafe conditions while walking the required distance to a school bus stop and that the school bus stop is established in a safe location.”**