

Hawthorn Academy
Policy: Student Transportation Policy
Approved: March 8, 2023
Amended: September 9, 2026



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to address how student transportation is handled at Hawthorn Academy (the "School"). It is also to establish rules and requirements related to student transportation to help ensure student safety.

The School intends for this policy to satisfy the policy requirements of Utah Administrative Code Rule R277-601.

Policy

No School Buses

The state does not provide the School (or any other Utah charter school) with any state transportation funding. As a result of this, and as a result of having a student population that often resides throughout multiple cities and/or counties in the state, the School does not own or operate school buses and does not provide transportation for students to or from School, except where required by law. Parents or guardians are responsible for the transportation of their students to and from the School each day.

Student Transportation for School Activities

The School may provide transportation for students in charter buses or through public transportation in connection with field trips, extracurricular activities, or other School-sponsored activities ("School activities"). Any charter bus company selected by the School to transport students shall meet or exceed industry safety requirements and provide reliable and professional transportation services.

The School shall inform parents and guardians when it intends to provide student transportation in connection with School activities and shall give parents and guardians the opportunity to consent to such transportation. A student's parent or guardian must provide consent in order for their student to be transported to and/or from School activities as described in this section.

Charter bus operators and, to the extent practicable, other vehicle drivers approved by the School to transport students to and/or from School activities, shall adhere to the applicable standards in R277-601-3. The School shall enforce the applicable standards as required by the rule.

When the School provides transportation for a School activity, students are expected to use the School-provided transportation to and from the School activity. In extenuating circumstances, a parent or guardian may request permission to transport the parent's or guardian's own student. Any exception must be approved in advance by the student's Campus Principal or the School's Lead Director and may be conditioned on the parent or guardian completing any required

permission, release, or student check-out procedure. Exceptions will be considered individually based on the circumstances and the School's safety, supervision, and operational needs.

Private Transportation Arrangements

School employees shall avoid traveling alone in private vehicles with students who are not members of the employee's immediate family. Exceptions to this rule may include situations where an employee is acting in the employee's personal capacity as a parent or volunteer in the community.

In addition, a parent or guardian of a student at the School may independently arrange for another individual, including a School employee with whom the parent or guardian has a personal relationship, to transport the parent's or guardian's student to or from School. Any such arrangement is a private arrangement between the parent or guardian and the individual providing transportation. The School does not arrange, provide, sponsor, support, supervise, or guarantee transportation provided under a private transportation arrangement and does not evaluate or approve the driver's vehicle or personal automobile insurance for purposes of the arrangement.

A School employee who transports another person's student under a private transportation arrangement does so voluntarily and in the employee's personal capacity, not as part of the employee's assigned job duties or within the course and scope of the employee's employment. The School employee shall not represent that the transportation is being arranged, provided, sponsored, supported, supervised, or guaranteed by the School.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the School is not liable for accidents, injuries, or other losses arising from the transportation of students to or from School under a private transportation arrangement.

The School's Lead Director shall establish requirements that must be met before a School employee may transport a student, other than the employee's own child, to or from School.