

C6. CHAPTER 6

TRANSPORTATION OF DEPENDENT SCHOOL CHILDREN

C6.1. GENERAL

This chapter addresses providing transportation services in support of the education of dependents of DoD personnel, other children eligible to attend DoD-operated schools, and dependents of DoD personnel residing on military installations within the United States who attend local or nearby public schools. Specific policies and procedures are provided for both the United States and overseas areas.

C6.2. UNITED STATES

C6.2.1. SCOPE

This section governs school transportation services for all DoD dependent students attending schools located in the United States which includes the 50 States, District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, Guam, and Midway Island. It also applies to DoD dependents and other children eligible to attend schools operated by the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary Secondary Schools (DDESS).

C6.2.2. AUTHORITY

C6.2.2.1. Title 10 U.S.C. 351, 2164 (Reference (ae)) as amended provides authority and eligibility criteria to extend Federal assistance to eligible local education agencies (LEA) providing educational services for children residing on Federal property, including DoD installations.

C6.2.2.1.1. In consideration for this assistance, LEA providing transportation to school children in their districts must also provide transportation to school children residing on DoD installations that are located within their school districts.

C6.2.2.1.2. Should local education agencies lack the necessary facilities to provide transportation for children residing on DoD installations, the DoD may provide transportation. The cost for such transportation may be reimbursed by the local education agency under current Department of Education policies.

C6.2.2.2. Title 10 U.S.C. 2639 (Reference (af)) authorizes the use of appropriated funds to provide transportation for minor dependents to and from primary and secondary schools when the schools are not accessible by regular means of transportation.

### C6.2.3. PROCEDURES

C6.2.3.1. DoD transportation facilities shall be used for transportation of dependent school children only as specifically provided in this Regulation.

C6.2.3.2. Transportation may be provided to:

C6.2.3.2.1. Local public schools when the schools are not accessible or serviced by local school bus transportation.

C6.2.3.2.2. Nearby public schools, other than the local public schools, when:

C6.2.3.2.2.1. The nearby public school is not accessible; and

C6.2.3.2.2.2. The activity designated by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness as responsible for overseeing dependent education has determined that local public schools in which the children would normally be enrolled are unable to provide adequately for their education; that attendance at other public schools (to include public schools for the students with disabilities) in a nearby education agency district can be arranged; and that transportation is not available as described in subparagraph C6.2.2.1.1.

C6.2.3.3. Funds may be expended for transportation to public schools (local or nearby) only when an appropriate official of the LEA advises that school transportation will not be provided by the local education agency. (See paragraph C6.2.2.1.2.)

### C6.2.3.4. Walking Distance For DoD Installations

C6.2.3.4.1. The walking distance for grades 6 and below shall not normally exceed 1 mile from their primary residence to the school or designated bus stop. Students in grade 7 and above may walk up to 1 ½ miles from their primary residence to the school or designated bus stop. This distance may be slightly expanded or contracted to conform to natural boundaries such as a housing area or neighborhood. In locations having middle schools (grades 6, 7, and 8), the above criteria shall be changed to read grades 5 and below shall be required to walk up to one mile from their primary residence.

C6.2.3.4.2. The local school superintendent may elect to use local or state guidelines to define walking distances, however, the walking distance for any student cannot extend beyond 1½ miles. DoD shall not provide school bus service within the designated walking area to and from the school.

### C6.2.3.5. Coordination and Transportation Agreements

C6.2.3.5.1. When more than one DoD installation is involved, the dominant user will coordinate transportation arrangements to minimize required transportation resources.

C6.2.3.5.2. When a DoD Component provides transportation for dependents to a public school, including public schools operated on DoD installations for dependent children, written agreements shall be entered into with the LEA. The agreements will determine the services and facilities to be furnished and the arrangements for reimbursement. (See paragraph C6.2.2.1.2.)

C6.2.3.5.3. Reimbursements shall be governed by DoD Instruction 4000.19 (Reference (ag)).

#### C6.2.3.6. Commuting Area

C6.2.3.6.1. The school commuting area is defined as a specific geographic area used to determine eligibility for transportation of dependent students to a DoD-operated school. School bus services shall be provided to all authorized students residing outside the walking distance and within the designated commuting area according to this Regulation. A map and/or a narrative description shall be used to identify the commuting area.

C6.2.3.6.1.1. The commuting area shall be based on the availability of housing within the proximity of the school and shall not normally exceed 1 hour in commute time.

C6.2.3.6.1.2. The school administrators and Housing Referral Office shall give the school commuting area widespread publicity. Pertinent information on the area and a copy of the area map should be included in the community “Welcome Packet” and sponsor’s information packet. The significance of the school commuting area shall be addressed during the in processing of all personnel, and again in the initial visit to the Housing Referral Office so that each sponsor is well informed before looking for housing. The school commuting area and the established school bus routes shall also be clearly marked on large-scale wall maps in the Housing Referral Office.

C6.2.3.6.2. Each incoming sponsor shall be required to certify in writing that he or she has been advised by the Housing Referral Office or school regarding the commuting area. The sponsor understands that if family housing is obtained outside this area, transportation of any dependent student between residence and the school or existing school bus stops within the commuting area is the sponsor’s responsibility. The certification will be filed in the Housing Referral Office, for the length of the sponsor’s tour and any extensions thereof.

#### C6.2.4. AUTHORIZED SERVICES

##### C6.2.4.1. DoD DDESS

C6.2.4.1.1. One round-trip to and from school may be provided each school day to authorize dependent students enrolled in DDESS schools who:

C6.2.4.1.1.1. Reside outside of the walking area and within the designated commuting area, or

C6.2.4.1.1.2. Reside outside of the walking area and the commuting area, but are transported at their own expense to an existing school bus stop within the commuting area.

C6.2.4.1.2. DoD shall not provide transportation to/from home for lunch.

C6.2.4.1.3. Transportation normally shall be provided to/from centrally located bus stops in the commuting area. When requested by the sponsor, parent, or guardian, transportation may be provided to and/or from an alternate care provider such as a Child Development Center located within the commuting area and outside of the walking area. DDESS may grant alternate pickup or drop off locations on a space-available basis and services may be terminated at any time due to seating availability. Changes in transportation service shall be held to a minimum and will not be authorized on a day-by-day basis.

C6.2.4.1.4. Curb-to-curb transportation shall not be provided except as outlined in paragraph C6.2.4.3. for certain students with disabilities as determined in the student's individual education plan (IEP).

C6.2.4.1.5. DoD motor vehicle transportation shall not be provided to students when adequate transportation is provided by the public school system.

C6.2.4.1.6. Students who are enrolled in a nonfederal-connected category may be transported on existing routes provided space is available on the route(s) to be used.

#### C6.2.4.2. Non-DoD Schools

C6.2.4.2.1. Students who reside outside the walking distance of a non-DoD school and attend at DoD expense shall use transportation provided or arranged by the non-DoD schools.

C6.2.4.2.2. When a non-DoD school does not provide transportation or the cost of transportation is charged separately, Installation Commander, the Director, DDESS, or designee, shall determine the appropriate means of transportation.

C6.2.4.2.2.1. Transportation may be provided to private schools within the following guidelines:

C6.2.4.2.2.1.1. The parent of the child submits a written request for transportation to the Installation Commander, Director, DDESS or designee; and

C6.2.4.2.2.1.2. The Installation Commander, Director, DDESS, or designee determines that the motor vehicles authorized for transporting dependent school children to public schools have extra space and can convey those attending private schools without deviating from the established route to the public schools and at no additional cost.

C6.2.4.2.2.1.3. DoD motor vehicle transportation shall not be provided to students when adequate transportation is provided by the public school system.

C6.2.4.2.2.2. A transportation service for students with disabilities may be authorized to designated public or private schools in the event the DoD schools are unable to meet the curriculum as described in the student's IEP.

C6.2.4.3. Students with Disabilities. Special emphasis shall be placed on meeting the transportation needs of students with disabilities. The Case Study Committee (CSC) must consider the special needs of the individual student, including transporting students in the least restrictive environment, when determining appropriate transportation services for each student with a disability. Special transportation services that are prescribed in a student's IEP by the CSC of the receiving school, or by a Special Education Hearing Officer or by a court must be provided.

C6.2.4.3.1. Examples of special services which may be required include, but are not limited to, curb-to-curb transportation between the student's residence and the school, establishment of a special bus stop within a designated distance of the student's residence, use of a special safety harness, transportation of a Seeing Eye or hearing dog, or assignment of a one-on-one attendant, or aide, for physically disabled or physically aggressive students. Curb-to-curb service shall not be provided to students who live within the walking area of the school that have a disability which does not prohibit them from walking (or being escorted by the sponsor or guardian) to and from school safely.

C6.2.4.3.2. Motor vehicles used solely to transport students with disabilities shall be equipped with a seat belt or child safety restraint system for each passenger, in accordance with Federal and State guidelines.

C6.2.4.3.3. Motor vehicles used to transport students who normally use wheelchairs shall be equipped with a lifting device or a ramp, which meets Federal and State guidelines.

#### C6.2.5. SAFETY AND SECURITY

C6.2.5.1. Student Conduct. School officials are responsible for the development and enforcement of standards of student behavior aboard school buses. Riding a school bus is a privilege. Corrective action may be taken on a student reported for misconduct to include loss of his or her riding privilege.

C6.2.5.2. Safety Reviews. School officials are required to conduct safety reviews of the school buses and of the loading and unloading areas in accordance with state laws and guidelines. In those areas where transportation is provided by the military, the Installation Commander and appropriate school officials are required to conduct safety reviews. All school bus services must meet all Federal and State motor vehicle requirements, inspections, and licensing for school buses.

C6.2.5.3. Security Reviews. The Installation commander or Director, DDESS, through the installation security office or DDESS Office of Safety and Security, shall monitor,

coordinate, and assist in implementing antiterrorism program initiatives to ensure safe and secure transportation of all DoD students to and from school and school activities.

C6.2.5.4. Contingency Planning. The Installation Commander shall work with appropriate school officials to develop and publish contingency plans for transporting students.

C6.2.5.5. Safety/Security Attendants

C6.2.5.5.1. Safety attendants are authorized in vehicles transporting students with disabilities when specified by a student's IEP, and on buses exclusively transporting students enrolled in a DDESS preschool, Sure-Start, or kindergarten program. The primary function of a safety attendant is to ensure that children enter and exit the school bus safely and conduct themselves in a safe manner while on the bus.

C6.2.5.5.2. The security attendants are to detect, report, and react to any threats to the students or transportation operations, and to provide security oversight of the students, vehicle, bus route, and student pick-up points along the route. The security attendants will be provided positive emergency communications, standard safety and security operating instructions, training in counter-surveillance techniques, and basic first aid instruction.

C6.2.5.5.3. Normally, only one adult other than the driver shall be assigned to one vehicle. The Director, DDESS shall provide funds for safety/security attendants as resources allow for school buses managed by DDESS.

C6.2.6. EXCEPTIONS

In special situations, the Director, DDESS, or designee may grant exceptions to the commuting area or walking area criteria after full consideration of circumstances and evaluation of alternatives. Exceptions must be endorsed by the local principal and the DDESS District Superintendent, and forwarded to the Director, DDESS, or designee. Requests for exceptions should contain the following data:

C6.2.6.1. Name of school.

C6.2.6.2. Reason for waiver request. Include maps, charts, and/or photographs where appropriate. When safety considerations are believed to be a factor, include a statement from the responsible Safety Officer.

C6.2.6.3. Statement of available alternatives to eliminate or alter the conditions.

C6.2.6.4. Number of students involved.

C6.2.6.5. Comments and recommendations from endorsing officials.

C6.2.6.6. Budgetary impacts if waiver is granted.

C6.2.6.7. Budgetary impacts if waiver is denied.

### C6.3. OVERSEAS AREA

C6.3.1. SCOPE. This section governs student transportation services to all DoD-operated or non-DoD schools located outside of the United States (as defined in paragraph C6.2.1.).

C6.3.2. AUTHORITY. Title 20 U.S.C. 921 (Reference (ah)) authorizes the Secretary of Defense to establish and operate a program to provide free public education through secondary schools for DoD dependents in overseas areas, including necessary incidental services.

### C6.3.3. PROCEDURES

C6.3.3.1. Commuting Area. The school commuting area is defined as a specific geographic area formally designated for determining eligibility for transportation of dependent students to a DoD-operated school. School bus services shall be provided to all authorized students residing outside the walking area and within the designated commuting area in accordance with this Regulation. A map and/or a narrative description shall be used to identify the commuting area.

C6.3.3.1.1. DoD-Operated Schools. Each Area Director for the DoD Dependents Schools (DoDDS) or designee, in coordination with the community commander representative, shall establish a commuting area for each primary school. The commuting area for a secondary school shall consist of the commuting areas for all primary schools included in the secondary school feeder plan.

C6.3.3.1.1.1. The commuting area shall be based on the availability of housing within the proximity of the school. Total elapsed travel time from the farthest point within the commuting area to the school should not normally exceed 1 hour, except as authorized in paragraph C6.3.7. The commuting area does not need to be equal in distance from the school, nor does it need to be as far as 1 hour travel time. If sufficient housing is available within a closer distance (e.g., 20 minutes), then that should be designated as the commuting area. If a locality or section otherwise within the commuting area has difficult or unsafe access (e.g., winding or narrow roads or frequently inaccessible during the winter), it may be excluded from the commuting area.

C6.3.3.1.1.2. The school administrators, the Housing Referral Office, and the local DoDDS School Bus Office shall give the school commuting area widespread publicity. Pertinent information on the area and a copy of the area map should be included in the community "Welcome Packet" and sponsor's information packet. The significance of the school commuting area shall be addressed during the in-processing of all personnel, and again in the initial visit to the Housing Referral Office, so that each sponsor is well informed before looking for housing. The school commuting area and the established school bus routes shall also be clearly marked on large-scale wall maps in the Housing Referral Office.

C6.3.3.1.1.3. Each incoming sponsor shall be required to certify in writing that he or she has been advised by the Housing Referral Office and the DoDDS School Bus Office or school regarding the authorized commuting area and understands that if family housing is obtained outside the area, transportation of any dependent student between residence and the school or existing school buses stop within the commuting area is the sponsor's responsibility. The certification will be filed in the Housing Referral Office, for the length of the sponsor's tour and any extensions thereof.

C6.3.3.1.2. Non-DoD Schools. In some locations, DoD Education Activity (DoDEA) may authorize students to attend a non-DoD school.

C6.3.3.1.2.1. When school bus service is included as part of the tuition services, the commuting area used by the non-DoD school shall apply.

C6.3.3.1.2.2. When a non-DoD school does not provide transportation as part of the tuition services, a school commuting area shall be established and administered as described in section C6.3.3.1.

#### C6.3.3.2. Walking Distance and Walking Area

C6.3.3.2.1. The walking distance is the distance a student may be required to walk between that student's primary residence and the school or designated bus stop. Normally, the walking distance should not exceed one mile for students in elementary schools and 1 ½ miles for students in secondary schools.

C6.3.3.2.2. School bus services will not be provided within the designated walking area, except for certain students with disabilities as described in paragraph C6.3.4.3. Based on the applicable walking distance to school as mentioned above, walking areas may be expanded or contracted to conform to natural boundaries such as a housing area, a neighborhood, etc.

C6.3.3.2.3. Sponsors who reside within the walking area or have a daycare provider within the walking area are responsible for ensuring that their children get to and from school in a safe manner.

#### C6.3.4. AUTHORIZED SERVICES

##### C6.3.4.1. DoD-Operated Schools

C6.3.4.1.1. One round-trip to and from school may be provided each school day to authorize dependent students enrolled in DoDDS schools who:

C6.3.4.1.1.1. Reside outside of the school walking area and within the designated school commuting area, or

C6.3.4.1.1.2. Reside outside of the walking area and the commuting area, but are transported at their own expense to an existing school bus stop within the commuting area.

C6.3.4.1.2. Transportation to/from residence for lunch shall not be provided.

C6.3.4.1.3. Regular daily commute transportation normally shall be provided to/from centrally located bus stops in the area of the student's primary residence. When requested by the sponsor, parent or guardian, transportation may be provided to and/or from an alternate care provider such as a Family Child Care Provider, Child Development Center or American Youth Activity Center located within the commuting area and outside of the walking area. Changes in transportation service shall be held to a minimum and will not be authorized on a day-by-day basis.

C6.3.4.1.4. Curb-to-curb transportation shall not be provided except as outlined in paragraph C6.3.4.3. for certain students with disabilities.

C6.3.4.1.5. Students enrolled in a nonfederal-connected category may be transported on existing routes on a space available basis.

C6.3.4.1.6. Transportation may be provided to all students participating in school-sponsored educational activities, such as curricular study trips.

C6.3.4.1.7. Subject to the availability of funds, transportation may be provided to all students participating in cocurricular activities under the conditions established by school authorities.

C6.3.4.1.7.1. Curricular activities are school-sponsored activities designed to provide students the opportunity to participate on an individual or group basis in public events in other than the school environment for enjoyment, motivation, and improvement of skills.

C6.3.4.1.7.2. To encourage participation in curricular activities, transportation from the school to a limited number of central locations (e.g., bus or rail terminals or principal housing areas) is authorized, subject to the availability of funds. Curricular activities generally take place after the normal school day has ended and regular school-to-home transportation has terminated.

#### C6.3.4.2. Non-DoD Schools

C6.3.4.2.1. DoDEA-sponsored students who reside outside the walking area of a non-DoD school and who attend at DoD expense shall use transportation provided or arranged by non-DoD schools when it is included as part of the tuition paid.

C6.3.4.2.2. When a non-DoD school does not provide transportation or the cost of transportation is charged separately, the DoDDS Transportation Manager, or designee, shall determine the appropriate means of transportation.

C6.3.4.2.3. Transportation may be provided for dependent students who are attending non-DoD schools in overseas areas only when the DoDDS Area Director or designee has approved attendance on a case-by-case basis.

C6.3.4.3. Students with Disabilities. Special emphasis shall be placed on meeting the transportation needs of students with disabilities. The CSC must consider the special needs of the individual student, including the requirement to transport students in the least restrictive environment, when determining appropriate transportation services for each student with a disability. Special transportation services that are prescribed in a student's IEP by the CSC of the receiving school, or by a Special Education Hearing Officer, or by a court must be provided.

C6.3.4.3.1. Examples of special services which may be required include, but are not limited to, curb-to-curb transportation between the student's residence and the school, establishment of a special bus stop within a designated distance of the student's residence, use of a specific child safety restraint system, or transportation of a seeing eye or hearing dog, or assignment of a one-on-one safety attendant, or safety aide, for physically disabled or physically aggressive students. Curb-to-curb service shall not be provided to students who live within the walking area of the school that have a disability which does not preclude them from walking (or being escorted by the sponsor or guardian) to and from school safely.

C6.3.4.3.2. Motor vehicles used solely to transport students with disabilities shall be equipped with a seat belt for each passenger. When required for specific passengers, host-nation approved child safety restraint system seating devices shall be used during the transportation of students with disabilities and Sure-Start students.

C6.3.4.3.3. Special education students (two or more) when being transported in a motor vehicle or any student for whom a special four-point harness is required, shall have a safety aide who is trained to assist students with disabilities.

C6.3.4.3.4. Motor vehicles used to transport students who normally use wheelchairs shall be equipped with a lifting device or a ramp, which can be secured to the vehicle. Approved wheelchair restraining devices shall be installed and used.

#### C6.3.5. TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

C6.3.5.1. Students shall be transported at the lowest practical cost. Transportation service will be based on a thorough analysis and periodic review of student demand, routes, and schedules by the local DoDDS transportation managers. Full consideration shall be given to the following:

C6.3.5.1.1. Staggering school operating hours of nearby schools to permit vehicles to operate multiple trips per day to or from a given school or group of schools.

C6.3.5.1.2. Altering school organization plans and establishing flexible school boundaries or walking areas to maximize use of transportation resources.

C6.3.5.1.3. Consolidating school closures for administrative activities (meetings, training, conferences) to avoid half-day sessions and scheduling these activities to coincide with host-nations' holidays whenever possible.

C6.3.5.1.4. Developing routes and schedules to optimize use of equipment and seating capacity and to reduce total mileage and driving time. Routes and schedules shall be developed based on the actual or projected number of space-required students. Larger capacity vehicles shall not be assigned in order to transport students enrolled in a space-available, nonfederally connected or those otherwise ineligible to be transported (e.g., students living within the designated walking area of the school).

C6.3.5.1.5. Seating students in kindergarten through grade 6 on a three-to-a-seat basis, except for front seats or seats designated for nonuse due to safety reasons.

C6.3.5.1.6. Using consolidated pickup points where feasible and applying safety considerations.

C6.3.5.1.7. Ensuring that school transportation has adequate seating for the number of passengers specified for each run. No student will be allowed to stand.

C6.3.5.2. Students in grades 7 through 12 may be required to use regular public or DoD transportation at DoDDS expense where available, feasible, and cost-efficient; however, the safety and security of students must be also considered when using alternative transportation.

C6.3.5.3. Use of a particular means of transportation for normal daily commuting service does not prevent the use of an alternative means for study trips or cocurricular activities when that means is safe and cost effective, based on extra cost factors such as overtime, mileage, or holidays.

C6.3.5.4. Transportation resources shall not be used solely to achieve a balance within DoD schools based upon rank of sponsors.

C6.3.5.5. When, because of locations, more than one school uses the same vehicle service, the DoDDS Transportation Management Office shall be responsible for consolidating and coordinating requirements and arranging for transportation services to all schools involved.

C6.3.5.6. When more than one installation and/or community provides transportation for students to the same school, the DoDDS Transportation Management Office shall coordinate all student transportation to the school.

C6.3.5.7. Commercial contract vendors shall be used to provide transportation support to DoDDS when it is determined to be more economical or is the only source available. Otherwise, DoD nontactical vehicles, using part-time drivers, shall be used. An analysis will be conducted to consider overall cost to the government of providing school bus transportation with DoD vehicles. Based on the analysis of the overall transportation utilization throughout an operational day and throughout the year, school busing shall be integrated with other installation passenger

transportation functions whenever reasonable to do so. For example, one bus may normally be utilized for two school runs and three post shuttle runs each day; however, unauthorized persons may not ride a school run. Many of the cost factors will have to be adjusted to fit the needs of students with disabilities and the overseas environment, such as different retirement cost factors, other fringe benefits for local national civilian employees, and other appropriate adjustments. Equipment acquisition costs will be included as a factor in the cost analysis. The supporting DoD Component shall perform a comparative cost analysis in accordance with DoD Instruction 7041.3 (Reference (ai)) when arranging for initial transportation services to a new school or before any change from existing military transportation to contract transportation is made, when requested by the DoDDS Area Director.

C6.3.5.8. The responsible DoDDS Area Director or designee shall coordinate with the installation and/or community commanders on any significant change proposed to school bus services.

#### C6.3.6. SAFETY AND SECURITY

C6.3.6.1. Student Conduct. DoDEA is responsible for the development of standards of student behavior aboard school buses. Installation and/or community commanders share responsibility with DoDDS for enforcing student behavior aboard school buses. Riding a school bus is a privilege. Should any student be reported for misconduct, corrective action may be taken to include loss of bus riding privileges.

C6.3.6.2. Safety Reviews. DoDDS transportation managers are required to conduct periodic safety reviews of school transportation vehicles, routes/runs, and loading/unloading areas in accordance with Federal/host-nation laws and guidelines. In those areas where transportation is provided by the military, the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) should contain a provision for similar routine safety reviews of school buses and services. This requirement should also be included on contracts with private activities providing school bus services.

C6.3.6.3. Security Reviews. The responsible DoDDS Area Director or designee shall monitor, coordinate, and assist in implementing antiterrorism program initiatives to ensure safe transportation of all DoD students to and from school and school activities, and shall provide for increased security and safety measures on school transportation through complementary school bus security initiatives, such as the bus security attendant program (BSAP) and the automated vehicle location (AVL) system.

C6.3.6.3.1. The BSAP is carried out by professionally selected, trained, and managed adults who accompany the school buses that travel outside of U.S. installations to transport 10 or more students to and from school.

C6.3.6.3.2. An AVL system is installed on buses that travel outside of U.S. installations to transport students to and from school. The AVL system provides the ability to remotely track and report historical data for the traveled routes of all off-installation school buses

within a geographic area, identifies when a school bus deviates from a predefined route, and receives duress alarms.

#### C6.3.6.4. Safety Aides/Safety Attendants/Bus Security Attendants

C6.3.6.4.1. Safety Aides are authorized to accompany students with disabilities if the student's IEP specifies the need for one-on-one adult supervision or special needs assistance is required when the student is being transported to/from school. Safety aides are adults with special training that equips them to supervise or assist students with disabilities/special needs identified in the IEP and special instructions provided by the transportation manager.

C6.3.6.4.2. Safety Attendants are authorized on vehicles exclusively transporting students enrolled in DoDEA preschool, Sure-Start, and kindergarten programs to/from school. Subject to availability of funds, this authorization may be extended to vehicles transporting a mix of students in grades kindergarten through second grade. Safety attendants also shall be provided where host-nation law requires a "guide" to assist students in certain grades. Safety attendants are specially trained adults whose primary responsibility is to oversee on-board student safety during the daily commute to/from school. Normally, only one safety attendant is assigned to a vehicle.

C6.3.6.4.3. Bus Security Attendants. In overseas areas, DoDEA may use combating terrorism funds to contract for security attendants on vehicles transporting students to/from school in the off-U.S. installation host-nation environment. The security attendants are specially selected, trained, and managed adults on regular daily commute school buses, primarily to oversee student security and secondarily to further student safety. Normally, security attendants are not assigned to vehicles with a safety aide on board, nor should both a safety attendant and a security attendant be assigned to the same vehicle.

C6.3.6.5. Bus Monitors. School bus monitors, whose primary function is to maintain good order on the bus, may not be employed by DoDEA except when required by host nation law. Similarly, school bus monitor services may not be procured by DoDEA contract. Communities may provide school bus monitors on a volunteer basis to assist the school bus officer in maintaining acceptable student behavior on the bus.

C6.3.6.6. Other Bus Security. When the Installation Commander deems that local conditions jeopardize the security of some or all school bus services, the Installation Commander may place appropriately trained security personnel aboard those buses. Such personnel will not concern themselves with passenger conduct. DoDDS funds will not be used for this purpose.

#### C6.3.7. EXCEPTIONS

In special situations, the DoDDS Area Director or designee may grant exceptions to the commuting area or walking area criteria after full consideration of circumstances and evaluation of alternatives. Requests for exceptions should contain the following data:

C6.3.7.1. Name of school.

C6.3.7.2. Reason for waiver request. Include maps, charts and/or photographs where appropriate. When safety considerations are believed to be a factor, include a statement from the responsible Safety Officer.

C6.3.7.3. Statement of available alternatives to eliminate or alter the condition.

C6.3.7.4. Number of students involved.

C6.3.7.5. Comments and recommendations from endorsing officials.

C6.3.7.6. Budgetary impacts if waiver is granted.

C6.3.7.7. Budgetary impacts if waiver is denied.