

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION BRANCH
POSITION STATEMENT**

SCHOOL BUSES TRAVELING PRIVATE ROADWAYS

The Kentucky Department of Education, Pupil Transportation Branch, receives many inquiries in regard to school buses traveling on private roads. The Department of Education is concerned with all phases of safe transportation for Kentucky's public school children.

It is not the intention of the department to create hardships for any one or for any group of pupils throughout the state. Although travel on non-public roads is not illegal, the Pupil Transportation staff, after much research and discussion, strongly feels that Kentucky public school buses should not travel on non-public roads. The major issues to support this decision are:

1. In the case of inclement weather, who is responsible for clearing the roadway? Will they clean it with the same efficiency every time? *(Note: They are not required to do so.)*
2. Who is responsible for the road if it is damaged? *(Note: Districts may not be able to expend money on repair or development of these roads.)*
3. What happens if one private road runs across another private road? The question of permission and legal rights to use the road also surfaces.
4. There is the issue of insurance. Certain insurance companies will not cover public school buses traveling on non-public roadways in the event of an accident or collision.

It must be reiterated that travel on these roads is not illegal and the decision to travel them is left up to the local school district officials.