

Management Support

Student Safety - Walking, Biking and Riding Buses

The District will have a school trip safety plan that addresses bus safety, walking and biking routes, vehicle access to the school, circulation and parking at the school, pedestrian circulation on and around the school campus and safety education and enforcement.

A. Bus Safety

The Superintendent will develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills and for student conduct while riding on buses.

The bus driver is responsible for the safety of his/her passengers, particularly for those who cross a roadway after leaving the bus. No bus driver will order or allow a student to disembark at other than his/her customary boarding or alighting place, unless so authorized by the Superintendent or designee. In order to assure the safety of all, the bus driver may hold students accountable for their conduct during the course of transportation and may recommend corrective action against a student. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from using corporal punishment. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from allowing anyone to Board the bus who is not a student, or a person authorized to ride the bus by the Superintendent or his /her designee(s).

When a teacher, coach or other staff member is assigned to accompany students on a bus, such person will be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students in his/her charge. The bus driver will have final authority and responsibility for the behavior of students on the bus and will report/refer incidents to the principal of the school where students attend. When the District utilizes charter buses or excursion carriers, the driver will not have unsupervised access to children and the children will be supervised by a responsible employee of the District. Every contract between the School District and charter bus or excursion carrier will contain a carrier profile from the Washington utilities and Transportation Commission.

B. Emergencies

In the event of an accident or other emergency, the bus driver will follow the emergency procedures developed by the Superintendent. A copy of the emergency procedures will be located in each bus. To ensure the success of such emergency procedures, each bus driver will conduct an emergency evacuation drill within the first six weeks of each school semester. The District will conduct such other drills and procedures as may be necessary.

C. Student Conduct on Buses

The Superintendent or designee will establish written rules of conduct for students riding school buses. Such rules will include as a minimum the requirements of WAC 392-145-016

and will be reviewed annually by the Superintendent and revised if necessary. If the rules are substantially revised, they will be submitted to the Board for approval.

A copy of the rules of conduct for students riding buses will be provided to students at the beginning of the year. The classroom teacher and/or bus driver will review the rules with the students at or near the beginning of each school year. A copy of the rules will be posted in each bus and will be available upon request at the District office.

Cross References: Policy No. 3241 Student Discipline

Legal References: RCW 28A.600.010	Enforcement of rules of conduct—Due process guarantee—Computation of days for short-term and long-term suspensions
RCW 46.61.385	School patrol – Appointment – Authority- Finance – Insurance
WAC 392-144	School Bus Driver Qualifications
WAC 180- 392-400	School District rules defining misconduct— Distribution of rules
WAC 392-145-021	General operating regulations
WAC 392-145-016	Rules for students riding school buses
WAC 392-144	School Bus Driver Qualifications

Classification: Priority

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