

Student Safety Walking and Riding Buses

Purpose

This policy sets forth requirements that support the safety of students and staff as they walk or ride buses to and from school programs and activities.

Scope

This policy applies to the Superintendent, administrators, staff, volunteers, students, parents and guardians.

Policy

1. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Board of Directors considers the safety of students and staff of primary importance when considering pedestrian and bus routes, vehicle access and circulation, and parking on and around schools on campus.

- 1.1. In accordance with WAC 392-151-025, a suggested Safe Route to School plan has been developed to identify the best walking routes to and from campus, providing the greatest physical separation between walkers and traffic, along roads with lower speeds and volumes of traffic. Students and other pedestrians are encouraged to use the recommended routes depicted on the Safe Walking Route Map (Form #6605F3).
- 1.2. The Safe Walking Route Map should be distributed to parents, guardians and students as appropriate each year, and should be available via the district website. The Safe Route to School plan will be reviewed periodically and updated as conditions change.

2. SAFETY DURING TRANSPORTATION

The Superintendent or designee(s) will develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety, emergency exit drills and for student conduct while riding on buses.

2.1. Bus Safety

- 2.1.1. The procedures for bus safety will include rules restricting bus access to only students and those persons authorized by the Superintendent and designee(s) to ride the bus to and from any school and/or school-related activity. 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 and designee(s).
- 2.1.2. 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 other than at his/her regular stop unless permission is obtained in accordance with district policy.
- 2.1.3. In order to assure the safety of all, the bus driver, in consultation with school administrators as appropriate, may hold students accountable for their conduct

during the course of transportation and may recommend corrective action against a student in accordance with school/district disciplinary policies and procedures. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from using corporal punishment.

2.2. Emergencies

- 2.2.1. In the event of an accident or other emergency, the bus driver will follow the emergency procedures in accordance with the School Bus Driver Handbook (OSPI). A copy of the emergency procedures will be located in each bus.
- 2.2.2. To ensure the success of such emergency procedures, each bus driver will conduct an emergency evacuation drill within the first six (6) weeks of each school semester, which will be held on school premises. The first exit drill will be followed by at least one verbal review of the emergency exit drill prior to the second actual exit drill.
- 2.2.3. At the time of each field trip or extracurricular trip, the bus driver will verbally review the emergency exit location and procedures with all passengers.

2.3. Student Conduct on Buses

- 2.3.1. The Superintendent and designee(s) 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.
- 2.3.2. At the beginning of each school year, a copy of the rules of conduct for students riding buses will be provided to each student who is scheduled to ride a school bus. 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 made available upon request at the school and/or district office.

Related Procedures

6601P1-Transportation To and From School

6601P2-Bus Drop Off Procedures

6601P3-School Delays, Closures or Early Releases Due to Weather

6605P1-Student Safety and Conduct on Buses

Policy Cross References

6601-Transportation To and From School

6621-Transportation-Extraordinary Uses

6631-Transportation-Driver Training and Responsibility

Policy Legal References

- RCW 28A.600.010 – Enforcement of rules of conduct — Due process guarantees — 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 392-145-016 – Rules for students riding school buses
- WAC 392-145-021 – General operating requirements
- WAC 392-151-017 – Safety advisory committee—Selection.
- WAC 392-151-025 – Route plans.
- WAC 392-400-225 – School district rules defining misconduct — Distribution of rules

Management Resources

Policy & Legal News, June 2014

Policy History

Action:	Date:
Approved by the Board	June 15, 2016
Revised	
Revised	
Revised	

Previous Policy numbers 5004/6602, 5005/6603, 5006/6604