

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

The safety and welfare of student riders shall be the first consideration of all matters pertaining to transportation. Safety precautions shall include the following:

1. Students shall be instructed on the proper procedure for boarding and exiting from a school bus and proper and safe conduct aboard.
2. Emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted at least two times a year to acquaint student riders with procedures in emergency situations.
3. All vehicles used to transport students shall have a daily pre-trip inspection, prior to being placed in service. Such vehicles shall have a comprehensive annual inspection to determine whether they meet applicable safety regulations.
4. A bus driver who observes a vehicle passing the school bus when the signal lights are activated shall notify the transportation supervisor of the violation and provide him/her with the basic information required by law. The transportation supervisor shall convey this information to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
5. Audiovisual recording devices may be installed and used in school buses under the following criteria:
 - a. Notices must be conspicuously posted in buses, advising riders that audiovisual cameras may be in operation.
 - b. If actual audio or visual recording equipment is unavailable, dummy equipment may be installed in some vehicles.
 - c. Annual publication of bus rules and regulations shall include a notice of such recording device installation and use in District buses.
 - d. Videotapes shall be cataloged and stored for a minimum of thirty (30) days following recording. In cases of alleged misconduct by a driver or student(s), relevant tapes shall be retained until the controversy is settled, provided notice is given of such alleged misconduct within 30 days of the recording.
 - e. The director of transportation, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for collecting, cataloging, and storing tapes.
 - f. District authorities reviewing tapes may include: The bus driver; members of the Transportation Department authorized to deal with recorded bus incidents; teachers of students involved; and other district employees involved in disciplinary decisions regarding either the driver or the student(s) involved.

Tapes may also be reviewed by students who are facing disciplinary action that is based on the contents of the tape, and by the student's parent or guardian.

g. Under no conditions will tapes be released to anyone outside the District except as required by law. Such requests should be referred to the director of security, who is encouraged to consult with District legal counsel prior to releasing any such tapes.

The District shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of school buses and shall make these requirements known to bus drivers. It shall also cooperate with local safety officials in formulating and accomplishing its school bus safety program.

Current practice codified 1978

Adopted: date of manual adoption

Revised: December 5, 1989

Revised: October 5, 1993

Revised: January 18, 1994

Repealed by the Board and re-enacted and revised by the Superintendent: September 2, 2003

Revised: January 6, 2011

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 42-4-707

C.R.S. 42-4-1901 et seq.

1 C.C.R. 301-26, Rules 4204-R-200 et seq.

CROSS REFS.:

EEAEA, Bus Driver Requirements, Training, and Responsibilities

JICC, Student Conduct on School Buses