

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Bus Transportation: General Operating Rules

1. All school bus drivers shall meet the qualifications established in WAC 392-144, as now or hereafter amended.
2. Each school bus driver and bus attendant shall hold a valid and current first aid card which certifies that he/she has completed a course in the basic principles of first aid.
3. When a teacher, coach, or other certificated staff member is assigned to accompany students on a bus, such person shall be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students in their charge. However, the bus driver shall have final authority and responsibility for the behavior of the students and the operation of the bus.
4. Teachers and other school district staff members shall refrain from requesting students to transport prohibited items between home and school on a school bus. Items which shall not be transported within the passenger area of a school bus includes forms of animal life (except seeing eye dogs), firearms, weapons, breakable containers, flammables, and all other articles which could adversely affect the safety of the bus and passengers.
5. Musical instruments must fit in the student's lap so it does not reduce student capacity. (WAC 392-145-021(3)) Heavy, sharp, bulky, and/or other articles which may be hazardous in the event of an accident or an emergency stop shall not be transported unsecured in the passenger area of any school bus. Specific attention is directed to items such as ski poles, vaulting poles, large musical instruments, riser platforms, etc. In no case will items be secured in such a manner as to impede access to any exit.
6. A school bus driver shall not order or allow a student to depart the bus other than at his or her boarding or alighting place except as provided by written permission of the principal.
7. Motor fuel shall not be put into the tank while the engine is running or while passengers are on the bus.
8. All school buses shall operate with their headlights on when carrying passengers.
9. Every school bus operated by or in behalf of a school district shall be presented to the Washington State Patrol for safety inspections at such times and places as are hereafter designated by the Washington State Patrol and/or the superintendent of public instruction.

For additional information, please see [Policy No. 3420](#), Bus Transportation: Rules for Students Riding School Buses.

Revised: September 2019