

STUDENT SAFETY WALKING AND RIDING BUSES TO SCHOOL

A comprehensive school trip safety program shall address bus safety, walking and route plans, vehicle access to the school, circulation and parking at the school, pedestrian circulation on and around the school campus, and safety education and enforcement.

Safety Advisory Committee

The Superintendent will establish a Safety Advisory Committee (SAC) pursuant to WAC 39-151-017 to develop and maintain a comprehensive school trip safety program. The superintendent, or designee, will develop specific responsibilities and reporting relationships of the committee, including how the SAC relates to individual school safety programs.

Bus Safety

The Mead School District shall operate its school transportation program in full compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to transportation safety. All buses and other vehicles owned and operated by the Mead School District shall be inspected for safety by the assigned driver and vehicle maintenance personnel on a regular basis. The transportation director shall develop and maintain a safety inspection record. The Washington State Patrol shall inspect all buses once each year. Any defects noted by either a regular local or state inspection shall be remedied immediately.

The superintendent, or designee, will develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills and for student conduct while riding on buses. The procedures for bus safety will include rules restricting bus access to students and those persons authorized by the superintendent, or designee, to ride the bus to and from any school activity.

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 designee.

Emergencies

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) and district/department policies and procedures. A copy of the emergency procedures will be located in each bus. To insure 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.

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. The bus

driver and/or school will review the rules with the students at or near the beginning of each school year. A copy of the rules will be posted on the district’s website.

Safe Routes To School Plan

Pursuant to WAC 392-151-025, all elementary schools, that have students who walk to and from school, are required to develop a suggested route plan. All schools are encouraged to develop a plan with the district safety designee and have a walking/bike route plan in place.

The district safety committee will review proposed walking and biking plans. Plans will be routinely updated as conditions change. Plans will be posted on school websites.

Cross References	Policy 3241 – Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Action
	Policy 6700 – Nutrition and Physical Fitness
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	2014 – June Issue

Replaces Mead School District Policy 5354

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