

Operational Services

Transportation

The District shall provide free transportation for any student in the District who resides: (1) at a distance of one and one-half miles or more from his or her assigned school, unless the Board has certified to the Illinois State Board of Education that adequate public transportation is available or (2) if adequate public transportation is not available, within one and one-half miles from his or her assigned school where walking to or from school or to or from a pick-up point or bus stop would constitute a *serious safety hazard* due to either (a) vehicular traffic or rail crossing, or (b) a *course or pattern of criminal activity*, as defined in the Ill. Street gang Terrorism Omnibus Prevention Act, 740 ILCS 147/3. The District may provide transportation for any other student residing within one and one-half miles from their assigned school if the parent purchases a bus pass and there is room on the bus of the established route. A student's parent/guardian may file a petition with the Board requesting free transportation due to the existence of a serious safety hazard. Free transportation services and vehicle adaptation for special education students shall be provided if included in the students' individualized educational plan. The District may provide transportation to and from school-sponsored activities. Non-public school students shall be transported in accordance with State law. Homeless students shall be transported in accordance with State law. Foster care students shall be transported in accordance with Section 6312(c) (5) (B) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Bus fees are set annually by the Board based on the transportation contract.

The district shall adhere to the IDOT and school code regulations for the transportation of students.

Bus schedules and routes shall be approved by the Chief School Business Official and shall be altered only with the Chief School Business Official's approval and direction. In fixing the routes, the pickup and discharge points should be as safe and convenient for students as possible.

No school employee may transport students in school or private vehicles unless authorized by the appropriate administrator.

Every vehicle regularly used for the transportation of students must pass safety inspections in accordance with State law and Ill. Dept. of Transportation regulations. The strobe light on a school bus may be illuminated any time a bus is bearing one or more students. The Superintendent shall implement procedures in accordance with State law for accepting comment calls about school bus driving.

A school bus driver is prohibited from operating a school bus while using a cellular telephone, except: (1) during an emergency situation, (2) to call for assistance if there is a mechanical breakdown or other mechanical problem, (3) to communicate with school authorities or their designees, about any other issue relative to the operation of the school bus or the welfare and safety of any passenger. and (4)

when the school bus is parked. All contracts for charter bus services must contain the clause prescribed by State law regarding criminal background checks for bus drivers.

Pre-Trip and Post-Trip Vehicle Inspection

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a pre-trip and post-trip inspection procedure to ensure that the school bus driver: (1) tests the two-way radio or cellular radio telecommunication device and ensures that it is functioning properly before the bus is operated, and (2) walks to the rear of the bus before leaving the bus at the end of each route, work shift, or work day, to check the bus for children or other passengers in the bus.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §6312©(5)(B). Elementary and Secondary Education Act,
42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act,
42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.
105 ILCS 5/10-22.22 and 5/29-1 et seq.
105 ILCS 45/1-15 and /1/17.
625 ILCS 5/1-148.3a-5, 5/1-182, 5/11-1414.1, 5/12-813.1, 5/12-815,
5/12-816, 5/12-821, and 5/13-109.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.510 and 226.750; Part 120.
92 Ill.Admin.Code § Part 440.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Ethics and Conduct),
5:280 (Duties and Qualifications), 6:140 (Education of Homeless
Children), 6:170 (Title I Programs) 7:220 (Bus Conduct)

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