

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

The safe transportation of students to and from school is of primary concern to the District. All state laws and regulations pertaining to the safe use of school buses shall be observed by drivers, students and school personnel.

The Director of Transportation, in cooperation with the principals, has the responsibility of developing and publishing safety rules to be followed by drivers and passengers, including rules of student conduct. In order to ensure maximum safety to those riding school buses, it is necessary that students and drivers cooperate in this effort. There is no substitute for training to develop safe habits in pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

All buses and other vehicles owned and operated by the School District will have frequent safety inspections, and will be serviced in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws. The Transportation Department will develop a maintenance schedule (consistent with this policy and in cooperation with the Superintendent and principals) and will maintain a comprehensive record of all maintenance performed on each vehicle in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws.

Every bus driver is required to report promptly any school bus accident involving death, injury, or property damage. All accidents, regardless of damage involved, must be reported at once to the Director of Transportation or the Office of Transportation.

Use of Cell Phones and Portable Electronic Devices Prohibited

Use of portable electronic devices by a school bus driver at times the vehicle is in operation poses a potential safety risk. All school bus drivers are prohibited from using portable electronic devices while the bus is in operation.

Personal cell phones are to be placed in the "off" position and stored out of sight when in the possession of the school bus driver while the bus is in operation. Cell phones may be used in case of emergency.

The following terms are defined as:

- a) "Portable electronic device" shall mean any mobile telephone (hand held or "hands free"), personal digital assistant (PDA), portable device with mobile data access, laptop computer, pager, broadband personal communication device, two-way messaging device, electronic game, or portable computing device.
- b) "Using" shall mean holding a portable electronic device while making a voice communication, viewing, taking or transmitting images, playing games, or composing, sending, reading, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving or retrieving e-mail, text messages, social media or other electronic data.

(Continued)

POLICY

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- c) "In operation" shall mean that the bus engine is running, whether in motion or not.

Education Law Section 3623
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Section 156.3
Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1174, subdivisions a and b

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #5741 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

Adopted: 7/10/2001

Revised: 9/25/2012, 8/27/2019

Reviewed 10/24/2023 by Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services and Director of Transportation with no recommended changes. Approved by BOE 11/7/2023