

The following uses of District transportation are a privilege, not a right, and, except where bound by the terms of a lease, the District may revoke that privilege through official Board action at a regularly scheduled and legally advertised meeting. The Superintendent shall have the authority to modify transportation services for school and extracurricular activities when the available fuel supply for regular transportation services appears to fall below the required level.

School Activities

Transportation may be provided by the District for all activities which have been officially designated by the Board as school activities. Activities may include, but not be limited to:

1. Educational field trips growing out of regular classroom activity which are planned by the teacher, approved by the principal and supervised by school staff, provided that any overnight trip or any trip beyond a 60-mile radius of the District requires prior approval of the Board; and
2. Athletics, debate, drama or music programs or other Board-approved co-curricular programs.

Participants in any other activity who feel such activity should be considered an official school activity may petition the Board, through the Superintendent, to have it considered as a school activity.

Extracurricular Activities

The Superintendent may authorize the use of District transportation vehicles transporting nonparticipating students to extracurricular activities. Such vehicles may be so used only when commercial service is not reasonably available and when the users pay an amount sufficient to reimburse the District for the complete cost of such use. District drivers shall be used on all such trips. Participants shall be supervised by staff.

Leasing of Buses

The Board may enter into a written lease agreement with any of the following:

1. A nonprofit organization transporting handicapped children and/or persons at least sixty (60) years of age to and from the site of activities or programs deemed beneficial to such persons by such organization, provided that commercial bus service is not reasonably available for such purpose;

2. A governmental agency transporting personnel, supplies and/or evacuees in the event of a major forest fire, flood or other natural disaster;
3. A user conducting an educational recreation program supported wholly or in part by tax funds.

Such a lease agreement shall contain a clause absolving the District of any and all liability arising from the lessee's use and operation of the District's buses and a clause requiring the lessee to maintain adequate insurance to recompense the District for the potential loss of the buses leased.

Potential users shall stipulate in writing that commercial or charter bus service is not reasonably available to provide the services for which a school bus is needed. The user shall reimburse the District for the actual costs plus a reasonable fee for use of the bus. Funds derived from the lease of a surplus bus shall be deposited in the transportation vehicle fund. If a bus is a part of the regular fleet, the funds derived from a rental or lease agreement may be deposited in the general fund.

Cooperative Programs

The Board may enter into cooperative transportation agreements with other districts when it is economically advantageous to the cooperating districts and when it does not impair the quality of educational programs available to students.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.24.055	Transporting of Children to School or School Activities--Transporting of Elderly--Insurance
	RCW 28A.160.040	Lease of Buses to Transport Handicapped Children and Elderly--Limitation
	RCW 28A.160.070	Lease of Buses to Transport Handicapped Children and Elderly--Elderly Persons Defined--Program Limitation

RCW 28A.160.080	School Buses, Rental or Lease for Emergency Purposes-- Authorization
RCW 28A.160.100	School Buses, Transportation of General Public to Interscholastic Activities
RCW 28A.160.120	Agreements with Other Governmental Entities for Transportation of Public or Other Noncommon School Purposes-- Limitations
RCW 28A.335.060	Surplus School Property, Rental, Lease or use of --Disposition of Moneys Received From
WAC 180-20-106	School Bus Operation for Extra-curricular Use

Adopted: May 5, 1986

Reviewed: October 20, 2009 North Thurston School District Board of Directors