

Bus drivers shall observe all state statutes and administrative rules governing traffic safety and school bus operation. The District shall, at the beginning of each school year assure that each driver has a copy of the School Bus Driver Handbook (SPI) , the District drivers handbook, any additional laws and /or rules which have been recently enacted and apply to school bus drivers, and the District's written rules for student conduct on buses.

Each bus driver must have a passenger endorsement and a Class B commercial driver's license. The bus driver shall also hold a valid and current first-aid card. An air brake endorsement is required for a driver who is assigned to a bus with air brakes. A bus driver is required to pass a Department of Transportation physical examination every two years.

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 his/her charge. The bus driver shall have final authority and responsibility.

Transportation by a School Employee

Any district employee, other than a school bus driver, who transports students for school activities in a district or private vehicle, must have a valid driver's license issued by the State Department of Licensing (or their state of residence), and proof of insurance. Such drivers may only operate vehicles with a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 10 or less including the driver. Such drivers are required to be authorized school bus drivers if they drive students on scheduled routes between home and school.

In addition, for any employees whose job assignment or supplemental contract requires the regularly scheduled transportation of students in vehicles with a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 10 or fewer, shall complete a district driving safety course and the district shall obtain a certified abstract of the driving record of the employee before the employee transports students. This requirement is not necessary for persons transporting students in an emergency affecting health and/or safety.

Supervision of Students

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 his/her charge and shall ensure that student behavior complies with state regulations and district policy. The bus driver shall have final authority and responsibility.

Charter buses or Excursion Carriers

When the District utilizes charter buses or excursion carriers, the driver shall not have unsupervised access to children, and children shall be supervised by a responsible employee of the district. Every contract between the school District and a charter bus or excursion carrier shall contain a carrier profile from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission indicating a satisfactory safety rating.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.160.210	School Bus Drivers, Training and Qualifications-Rules and Regulations for
	46.25	Uniform Commercial Driver's License Act
	WAC 180-20 392-144 392-145-015 392-145-020 through 030	School Transportation School bus driver qualifications General Operating Regulations Rules for School Bus Drivers; Rules for students riding school buses
Cross Reference:	Policy 8131	Private Vehicle Transportation
Adopted:	May 5, 1986	North Thurston School District Board of Directors
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