



Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 Operations
Title	USE OF SCHOOL BUSES
Code	po8645
Status	Active
Adopted	June 20, 2016

8645 - USE OF SCHOOL BUSES

The primary use of buses owned by the School Board is the safe transportation of students to and from school and other school related activities. All other uses are secondary to this purpose.

Buses will be scheduled for use described below only as they are available so that the regular transportation of students to and from school is not affected.

Only qualified drivers employed by the Board and assigned by the Director of Transportation will operate District buses for any of the uses described herein.

School Related Use

Buses owned by the Board shall be available for transportation of school-related groups participating in interscholastic competition or representing the District or school in activities sponsored by educational agencies.

Such use shall be permitted when it does not interfere with routine transportation of students to and from school.

Use by Non-School Related Groups, Nonprofit Corporations, and Nonprofit Civic Associations and Groups

The Board may enter into agreements with non-school groups, nonprofit corporations and nonprofit civic associations and groups to allow for the use of school buses to transport school-age children for activities sponsored by such associations and groups, including, but not limited to, the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, the Y.M.C.A., and similar groups. The agreement must include the "Insurance and Hold Harmless Requirements" language referenced in this policy below.

The use of school buses for these activities shall be subject to the following rules:

- A. When the buses are used for nonschool purposes other than the transportation of the transportation disadvantaged, the flashing red lights and white strobe lights shall not be used, and the "school bus" inscriptions on the front and rear of the buses shall be covered or concealed.
- B. Compensation to the Board for such use shall be at least equal to the costs incurred by the Board for such use.
- C. Prior to allowing the contracting party to take control of the bus, the District shall inspect the bus and note any existing damage. The inspection sheet must be signed by the contracting party and an agent of the District.
- D. Require all operators of District school buses to comply with Board Policy 8606 - Use of Wireless Communication Devices by District School Bus Operators and Policy 8625 - Ban on Texting While Driving.
- E. Require that all operators pass all required physical examinations and meet such other requirements as may be prescribed by State law.
- F. Require that all operators refrain from wearing shoes that are not securely held on the foot.
- G. Tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, or any other substances that may impair an operator's alertness or performance are prohibited. Operators shall not operate the bus if under the influence of any of these substances.
- H. Observe and comply with all traffic laws and operate the bus in a safe manner.
- I. Operate the bus at a safe speed and never in excess of the legally posted speed limit in business or residential districts, or fifty-five (55) miles per hour outside business or residential districts.
- J. Require all passengers to remain seated and to keep all aisles and exits clear.
- K. Certify that the operator has participated in emergency bus evacuation training.
- L. Immediately report all traffic accidents and/or damage to the school bus to the Superintendent.
- M. Allow access to all members of the public, including disabled passengers.
- N. Upon return of the bus, the District shall inspect the bus and note any new damage. The inspection sheet must be signed by the contracting party and an agent of the District.

Use by Local and/or State Government

Pursuant to State law, the Board may enter into agreements with the governing body of Franklin County or any municipality in Franklin County or of any State agency or of any agency established or identified to assist in the provision of public transportation and other public purposes, including, but not limited to, providing for the needs of the transportation disadvantaged, as defined in F.S. 427.011, including, but not limited to, the elderly, pursuant to Pub. L. No. 89-73, as amended, for the use of the school buses of the School District by departments, boards, commissions, or officers of such county or municipality or of the State for county, municipal, or State purposes, including, but not limited to, transportation of the transportation disadvantaged or other public purposes.

Each such agreement shall provide for reimbursement to the Board for the proportionate share of fixed and operating costs incurred by the Board attributable to the use of the buses pursuant to the agreement or attributable to the maintenance or other activities conducted by the Board.

Use by the Regional Workforce Board

The Board may enter into agreements with regional workforce boards for the provision of transportation services to participants in the welfare transition program. Agreements must provide for reimbursement in full or in part for the proportionate share of fixed and operating costs incurred by the Board attributable to the use of buses in accordance with the agreement.

Emergency Use

When an emergency arises and local or State government agencies require the use of buses, the Superintendent may authorize such use upon such request. Such requests will supersede any scheduled use by non-school groups.

At various times other school districts, due to emergency or unusual circumstances, may request the use of buses owned by the School District. Such usage may be permitted by the Superintendent, provided the other district reimburses the District for the actual costs involved.

Prohibited Uses

Buses may not be used for religious services, instruction, or ceremonies, commercial (for profit) activities, or politically related events.

Wireless Communication Devices

Use of wireless communication devices on District school buses and other motor vehicles shall be subject to the restrictions and prohibitions imposed by Policy 8625, Policy 8606, and F.S. 316.305.

Insurance and Hold Harmless Requirements

The governing body or State agency or agencies established or identified pursuant to Pub. L. No. 89-73, or the nonprofit corporation or nonprofit civic organization or group, or an agency established or identified to assist the transportation disadvantaged as defined in F.S. 427.011, or a public agency otherwise receiving services from the Board shall indemnify and hold harmless the Board, its officers, agents, and employees, from any and all liability by virtue of the use of the buses pursuant to an agreement authorized by this policy and State law.

For purposes of liability for negligence, state agencies or subdivisions as defined in F.S. 768.28(2) shall be covered by F.S. 768.28. Every other corporation or organization shall provide liability insurance coverage in the minimum amounts of \$1,000,000 on any claim or judgment and \$3,000,000 on all claims and judgments arising from the same incident or occurrence.

When the buses are used for nonschool purposes other than the transportation of the transportation disadvantaged, the flashing red lights and white strobe lights shall not be used, and the "school bus" inscriptions on the front and rear of the buses shall be covered or concealed.

The written agreement between the Board and the group, organization, or government agency for the use of the bus(es) shall describe the itinerary of the planned trip and shall provide that the group, organization, or government agency will reimburse the Board for the actual cost of the driver, including fringe benefits, plus the current average per-mile cost for the operation of the bus on the trip.

The agreement and a copy of the certificate attesting to the required liability insurance shall be submitted to the Board for approval prior to the planned trip.

© Neola 2013

Legal

F.S. 316.305, 1001.32, 1001.43, 1006.261