

Bus drivers will observe all state statutes and regulations governing traffic safety and school bus operation. The District will, at the beginning of each school year, assure each driver has a copy of the OSPI School Bus Driver Handbook; the district's policy and procedure on the prohibition of harassment, intimidation, and bullying; all state and local rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of a school bus; and the District's written rules for student conduct on buses.

**Bus Driver Qualifications**

School bus drivers will meet the qualification requirements established by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and applicable state and federal law.

**Transportation by a School Employee**

Any district employee, other than a school bus driver, who transports students 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 fewer 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, any employee who transports students in vehicles with a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 10 or fewer will complete a district driving safety course, and the district will 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 staff member is assigned to accompany students on a bus, such person will be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students in their charge and will ensure that student behavior complies with state rules and district policies and procedures for student transportation. However, the bus driver will have final authority and responsibility.

**Charter buses or Excursion Carriers**

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. When the District utilizes charter buses or excursion carriers, the driver shall not have unsupervised access to children, and children will be supervised by a responsible employee of the district.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.160.210	School Bus Drivers, Training and
	RCW 46.25	Qualifications-Rules and Regulations for Uniform Commercial Driver's License Act

	WAC 180-20	School Transportation
	392-144	School bus driver qualifications
	392-145-015 392-145-020 through 030	General Operating Regulations Rules for School Bus Drivers; Rules for students riding school buses
Adopted:	May 5, 1986	North Thurston School District Board of Directors
Amended:	February 3, 1997 October 19, 2010	North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors
Amended:	September 29, 2015	North Thurston School District Board of Directors
	June 17, 2025	NTPS Board of Directors