Each year, no later than the regular Board of Trustee's meeting in August, the superintendent or designee shall present their recommendation for bus routes, school safety busing zones, and non-transportation zones to the board. The board shall consider student health and safety in considering the recommendations of the superintendent or designee.

Definitions:

Safety Busing Zone: The transportation of a student who lives less than one and one-half (1½) miles from school when, in the judgment of the board, the age, health or safety of the students warrants such action.

Non-Transportation Zone: An area of the district designated by the board which is not served by district transportation because of sparsity of students, remoteness, or condition of roads makes such service impractical.

In order to operate the transportation system as safely and efficiently as possible, the following factors shall be considered in establishing bus routes:

1. School bus routes shall be established with due consideration of the sum total of local conditions affecting the safety, economic soundness and convenience of its operation, including road conditions, condition of bridges and culverts, hazardous crossings, presence of railroad tracks and arterial highways, extreme weather conditions and variations, length of route, number of families and children to be serviced, availability of turn-around points, capacity of bus, and other related factors. Further, the board shall consider the criteria set out in its measuring and scoring instrument.
2. School bus drivers are encouraged to make recommendations in regard to establishing or changing routes.
3. Parents should be referred to the Director of Transportation for any request of change in routes, stops, or schedules.
4. At least once a year, the Director of Transportation or the district's school bus driver trainer shall evaluate each route for the purpose of assessing the safety of routes and bus stops. Documentation of the route evaluations shall be retained by the district. The district may use the State Department of Education's model evaluation procedure and forms for these evaluations.

Bus Stops

Buses should stop to load and unload passengers only at designated places approved by school authorities. Exceptions should be made only in cases of emergency and inclement weather conditions. Bus stops shall be chosen with safety and protection of the health of students in mind. No bus stop shall be established within one and one-half (1½) miles from the students' school except in safety busing zones.

All bus stops shall be in safe locations with at least 100 yards of clear visibility in both directions. All bus stops shall be located at the site that allows the bus to stop without blocking any intersection; whenever possible stops shall be at least 40 feet from intersections.
School bus drivers shall load and unload from the right side of the roadway. Bus stops shall be sited to ensure students do not have to cross any road with more than three (3) lanes to board the

bus or to proceed home after exiting the bus unless the location has easily accessible traffic control signals.

School buses shall only stop to load or unload passengers at designated bus stops, as required by law, unless an unplanned safety risk is present.

School loading and unloading zones are to be established and marked to provide safe and orderly loading and unloading of students. Each building principal or designee is responsible for the conduct of students waiting in loading and unloading zones. Loading and unloading zones shall be supervised adequately for the size of the area and the number of students present to ensure close, continuous, and interactive supervision whenever students or buses are present in the loading and unloading zones.

Delay in schedule

The schedule for pickup and delivery of students shall be followed as accurately as possible. The driver is to notify the administration of a ten (10) minute or more delay in schedule. The administration will notify parents/guardians on routes experiencing delays, if necessary.

Responsibilities – Students

Students should recognize safety is based on group conduct. Talk should be in conversational tones at all times. Students should not shout or talk loudly because it may distract the bus driver.. Students should instantly obey any command or suggestions from the bus driver and/or his/her assistants.

A student may be denied transportation upon a showing of good cause.

Responsibilities - Parents

Parents' interest and assistance is a valued asset to the transportation program. Parents' efforts towards making each bus trip a safe and pleasant experience are requested and appreciated. The following suggestions are only three (3) of the many ways parents can assist:

1. Ensure students are at the bus stop in sufficient time to efficiently meet the bus;
2. Properly prepare children for weather conditions; and
3. Encourage school bus safety at home. Teach children about safe school bus related behavior, including its importance.

Safety

The superintendent or designee shall develop written rules establishing the procedures for student conduct, bus safety, and emergency exit drills which comply with State law and Federal Highway Safety Guideline 17.

If the bus and driver are present, the driver is responsible for the safety of his/her passengers, particularly for those who must cross a roadway prior to loading or after leaving the bus. Except in emergencies, no bus driver shall order or allow a student to board or disembark anywhere at a location other than his/her assigned stop unless so authorized by the superintendent or designee. In order to assure the safety of all, the bus driver may hold students accountable for their conduct in accordance with district Policy 806 Student Conduct on Buses. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from using corporal punishment.

The bus driver is responsible for the use of the warning and stop signaling systems. Failure to use the system constitutes negligence on the part of the bus driver.

Inclement Weather

The board recognizes the unpredictability and resulting dangers associated with the weather in Idaho. To achieve the maximum safety for children and efficiency of operation, the superintendent or designee is empowered to make decisions as to the emergency operation of buses, the cancellation of bus routes, and the closing of school in accordance with his/her best judgment. The board may develop guidelines in cooperation with the superintendent or designee to assist him/her in making such decisions.

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-1501, I.C. § 33-1502
I.C. § 49-1422
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