

## **School Bus Safety Program**

The primary consideration in all matters pertaining to transportation is the safety and welfare of student riders. Safety precautions shall include the following.

1. The transportation program meets all state requirements regarding the testing and approval of bus drivers, standards for buses and safe speeds.
2. The District conducts safety audits in accordance with State law of its bus routes, bus stops and school pickup and drop off sites on school property to reduce safety risks and mitigate the severity of school bus accidents at least annually. Safety audits may include the input of District bus drivers and will include an examination of all items required by law.
3. The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to implement personnel policies and/or programs for bus drivers that include, but are not limited to, providing opportunities for professional development, conducting performance reviews in accordance with law, and implementing wellness support programming offered by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and the Ohio Department of Public Safety specific to bus drivers that encourages drivers to utilize the programming.
4. Drivers of Board-owned, leased, contracted or operated vehicles including school buses have met state training and credentialing qualifications and the vehicles have been equipped for safety and signage according to State law.
5. The District develops procedures for drivers making school bus stops to receive and discharge students in accordance with State law. Administrators and transportation personnel will develop procedures to ensure school bus stop locations are designated in safe locations and comply with State law requirements, including the requirement to conduct safety audits at least annually. Bus stops are limited, where feasible, so that students from several homes can meet safely at a central point for group pickup. Pupils in grades kindergarten through eight may walk no more than one-half mile to a designated bus stop. Students in grade nine through 12, if offered transportation, may have to walk farther to a designated pickup point.
6. Three emergency evacuation drills, supervised by someone other than the bus driver, are conducted annually to thoroughly acquaint student riders with procedures in emergency conditions.

7. Additional emergency procedures are developed as required by State law for handling medical, mechanical, natural or other emergencies.
8. All vehicles used to transport students are inspected in accordance with State law and maintained in such condition as to provide safe and efficient transportation service with a minimum delay and disruption of service due to mechanical or equipment failure.
9. The District offers a school bus safety orientation program to students, parents and/or guardians at the beginning of each school year that offers opportunities to meet their bus drivers, tour a bus and learn about school safety, and provides families with take-home materials to encourage positive school bus behaviors. When possible, orientations should be incorporated into existing school-required orientations, meetings or assemblies.
10. Students in kindergarten through third grade are given instruction on school bus safety and behavior within the first two weeks of the school year. Regularly transported students in grade four through 12 are instructed in safety procedures in accordance with State law.
11. Passengers participating in non-routine use of school buses will receive safety instructions at the beginning of the bus trip in accordance with State law.

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CROSS REFS.: EB, Safety Program  
EEA, Student Transportation Services  
EEAD, Non-Routine Use of School Buses  
GBQ, Criminal Records Check  
IICA, Field Trips