File: EEAG

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION IN PRIVATE VEHICLES

School buses will be used for the transportation of students participating in curricular or extracurricular activities. However, when buses are not available, private vehicles may be permitted to transport students to or from school activities that fall within the academic day or extend the school day provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. The activity has the approval of the Superintendent of Schools
2. The owner of the vehicle being used in transporting students must file evidence with the Superintendent of personal liability insurance coverage on the vehicle in the amounts of $100,000 / $300,000
3. The parent / guardians of students to be transported in this manner will be fully informed as to this means of transportation and will sign a statement to this effect.
4. The driver cannot transport more than fourteen passengers including the operator of the vehicle.
5. The vehicle must have an adequate number of seat belts and the operator and passengers must wear seat belts which are properly adjusted and fastened.
6. The driver must not be compensated for providing transportation.

In addition to the above criteria, any privately-owned vehicle and the administrator, teacher or coach shall also comply with other Massachusetts laws regulating the safe operation for a motor vehicle prior to transporting students as follows:

1. The motor vehicle must be registered and properly insured pursuant to Chapter 90, section 1A and section 34A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.
2. The driver must have a valid drivers license and be over the age of twenty five years old.
3. The motor vehicle must undergo an annual safety inspection as required by Massachusetts law.
4. The driver must not operate the motor vehicle for transporting students if his or her license has been suspended or revoked within the past three years.
5. The driver shall refrain from the use or possession of alcohol or drugs when transporting students for school activities.
6. The driver shall refrain from the use of any mobile communication device, including but not limited to cell phones and PDA's when transporting students for school activities.
7. The driver must have an active CORI (Criminal Offender Registry Information) check on file in the Superintendent's Office.

First reading: October 27, 2009
Second reading: November 10, 2009
Third reading and vote: November 24, 2009