



Book	Policy Manual
Section	900 Operations
Title	Transportation
Code	908
Status	Active
Adopted	December 21, 2016
Last Revised	May 26, 2021
Last Reviewed	September 24, 2025

Purpose

Transportation for students shall be provided in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, as well as Board policy.

Definitions

School bus means a motor vehicle that is designed to carry eleven (11) passengers or more, including the driver, and is used for the transportation of pre-primary, primary or secondary school students to or from public, private or parochial schools or events related to such schools or school-related activities.[\[1\]](#)

School vehicle means a motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, designed for carrying no more than ten (10) passengers, including the driver, and used for the transportation of pre-primary, primary or secondary school students while registered by or under contract to the school district. The term includes vehicles having chartered, group and party rights under the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and used for the transportation of school children.[\[1\]](#)

Authority

The Board shall contract for school vehicle and bus services with private carriers and the Port Authority for transportation of students to and from school at regularly scheduled hours and for field trips and extracurricular activities.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

The Board shall provide transportation services as follows:[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

1. Students shall receive transportation to and from school for attendance at elementary schools if they live one and one-half (1.5) miles from school.
2. Secondary students shall receive transportation if they live two (2) or more miles from the school.
3. The Board shall provide transportation for students living within the prescribed walking limits when walking conditions on officially designated student walking routes to the school

are found to be hazardous by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.[7]

4. The Board shall transport exceptional students without regard to distance or hazardous walking conditions. Insofar as feasible, transportation for exceptional students shall be integrated with regular transportation service.[8][9]
5. The Board shall transport eligible resident students who are enrolled in nonpublic schools within the distance prescribed by law and subject to the above limitations.
6. The district shall provide transportation to resident students attending a charter school located in the district, a regional charter school of which the district is a member, and a non-district charter school located within ten (10) miles outside district boundaries, in accordance with distance requirements established for district students. Transportation shall be provided to charter school students on the dates and periods that the charter school is in session, regardless of whether transportation is provided to district students on those days.[10]
7. The Board shall not be responsible for transportation to or from school for any nonresident student residing outside school district boundaries, except where specifically required by federal and state laws and regulations.

All carriers who enter into transportation contracts with the school district will be expected to engage in a transportation carrier evaluation process. Carriers will be evaluated twice annually on five (5) major elements – safety record; complaint record; vehicle condition including age, cleanliness and mechanical condition; carrier facilities – housing and maintenance; and carrier responsiveness to Board needs. In addition, carriers shall provide a safety vehicle during the hours that school buses are in service and a dispatcher who will be available to the school district during hours that school buses are on the road.

A school bus driver shall not be employed until s/he has complied with the mandatory background check requirements for criminal history and child abuse, including submission of a Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) and FBI report, and the contractor or district has evaluated the results of that screening process.[11][12][13]

The Board prohibits any diesel-powered motor vehicle weighing 10,001 pounds or more to idle for more than five (5) minutes in any continuous sixty (60)-minute period while parked, loading or unloading, except as allowed by law.[14]

The Board shall ensure that permanent signs, notifying drivers of the idling restrictions, are maintained on district property at locations where passengers load and unload.[15]

Delegation of Responsibility

The school bus driver shall be responsible for reporting the misbehavior of students while they are being transported.

Consistent with the district's Code of Student Conduct, the appropriate school principal may suspend a student from bus transportation for disciplinary reasons related to transportation. The student's parents/guardians shall be responsible for the student's transportation for the duration of the suspension.[6]

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to:

1. Establish rules governing the number of chaperones to accompany students in connection with school-related activities.
2. Prepare a district map or schedule indicating each bus stop and bus route.

3. Maintain records and make required reports regarding school transportation.

4. Distribute rules governing student conduct during transport; such rules shall be binding on all students transported by the district.

Reports Of Employee Crimes/Child Abuse

District bus drivers and/or the district's transportation contract carriers shall be responsible to comply with Board Policy 908.1 - Contracted Services Personnel.[16]

Guidelines

Video/Audio Recording

To ensure safety, all school buses and vehicles with passenger capacity of thirty-six (36) and above shall have video cameras installed. Buses and vehicles may also be equipped with audio-recording equipment. The Board authorizes use of such video and audio recording equipment for school discipline and security purposes.[1][17]

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to ensure that:

1. Notice that students may be video and audio-recorded is posted and clearly visible on each school bus or school vehicle that is furnished with video and audio-recording equipment.
2. This policy is posted on the district's publicly accessible Internet site.
3. Each school year, policy provisions relating to audio and video recording on school buses and vehicles shall be included in the student handbook and in any other district publication that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures and standards of conduct for the school entity.

Requests for the release of school bus video recordings shall be reviewed by the Solicitor's Office in conjunction with the Pupil Transportation Department.

The Board prohibits the use of audio recording on any school bus or school vehicle that is not being used for a school-related purpose.

Legal

1. [75 Pa. C.S.A. 102](#)
2. [24 P.S. 1361](#)
3. [24 P.S. 1362](#)
4. [22 PA Code 23.1](#)
5. [22 PA Code 23.2](#)
6. [22 PA Code 23.4](#)
7. [67 PA Code 447.1 et seq](#)
8. [24 P.S. 1374](#)
9. [22 PA Code 23.3](#)
10. [24 P.S. 1726-A](#)
11. [23 Pa. C.S.A. 6301 et seq](#)
12. [24 P.S. 111](#)
13. [22 PA Code 8.1 et seq](#)
14. [35 P.S. 4601 et seq](#)
15. [67 PA Code 212.101](#)
16. Pol. 908.1

[17. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 5704](#)

[24 P.S. 1331](#)

[24 P.S. 1365](#)

[24 P.S. 1366](#)

[24 P.S. 2541](#)

[24 P.S. 2542](#)

[22 PA Code 15.1 et seq](#)

[22 PA Code 23.6](#)

[49 CFR Part 37](#)

[49 CFR Part 38](#)

Pol. 102

Pol. 102.1

Pol. 113

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