UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRANSPORTATION

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School Bus Safety Training
SCHOOL BUS AND ACTIVITY BUS PASSENGER SAFETY

A. PSUs shall provide instruction in school bus safety to all children and conduct practice evacuations (regardless of whether they regularly ride a school bus to and from school) during the first five days of school and at least once during each semester thereafter. PSUs shall document the date on which training was provided to each student. This instruction shall include but not be limited to:

- basic skills and knowledge vital to safety in school bus transportation.
- proper loading techniques, including street crossing at the bus stop and the North Carolina crossing signal; and
- instruction as needed to ensure that passengers are familiar with location and operation of emergency exits for the vehicle on which they are riding for any specific trip.

B. PSUs shall adhere to the following when assigning pupils to school buses, activity buses, commercial buses, or other contracted vehicles.

- PSUs shall not allow the number of passengers being transported to exceed the official rated capacity for the specific vehicle being used.
- PSUs shall ensure that all riders are seated completely within the seating compartment, when any bus or other vehicle is in motion.
- PSUs shall ensure that no person is standing or sitting in the aisle or stepwell when any bus or other vehicle is in motion.

C. PSUs shall require school bus drivers to utilize the North Carolina crossing signal to communicate to students when it is safe to cross the street to board the bus and when it is safe to cross the street after exiting the bus. The Department of Public Instruction shall develop and make available training materials describing the crossing signal for students and school bus drivers.

D. PSUs shall also provide safety instruction to students taking trips on activity buses or commercial buses as needed, including but not limited to instruction and demonstration of emergency exit operation for the vehicle on which they are riding for any specific trip.

For more information please visit: http://www.ncbussafety.org/SafetyLessons/index.html

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