

---

Safety is the primary concern in operating the student transportation fleet. Efficiency and economy in operating the school bus fleet are also primary district goals. Economic operation, which does not jeopardize the safety or efficiency of the busing program, will be exercised.

1. All vehicles used to transport students shall be maintained to provide safe and efficient transportation service with a minimum of delays and disruptions due to mechanical or equipment failure.

2. The district shall maintain a school bus replacement schedule so, within budget constraints, school buses will be replaced to provide modern equipment in safe mechanical condition at all times.

3. The superintendent or his/her designee will organize, develop and carry out instruction for students in school bus safety and emergency evacuation procedures. The following types of instruction will be provided:

- a. Emergency evacuation through available emergency exits;
- b. Safe operation of windows;
- c. Awareness and knowledge of posted school bus safety rules and regulations, including but not limited to loading, unloading, crossing etc;
- d. Location and proper use of fire extinguishers.

Students who regularly ride a school bus will be provided such instruction within the first six weeks of each half of the school year. Students who ride occasionally will be given instruction at least once in the first half of each school year. The district will document and maintain records of the content and dates of instruction.

4. Buses will not exceed vehicle design capacity for seating at any time unless an unforeseen or unusual circumstance arises. Passengers will be provided a seat that fully supports them. A person over 40 pounds or who has reached the upper weight limit for the forward-facing car seat must use a booster seat until four feet nine inches or age eight and the adult belt properly fits.<sup>1</sup> District vehicles 10,000 pounds or more or equipped with a lap belt only are exempt from these requirements. The child safety system shall meet the minimum standards and specifications of law.

5. During adverse weather conditions, the superintendent/designee may alter school bus schedules or cancel school bus services. The superintendent or his/her designee will advise local radio stations and other media of any changes in school bus schedules or services.

6. In the case of emergency or disaster, evacuation of students will be carried out according to the district's emergency plan.

7. All accidents involving district school buses will be reviewed by the superintendent or his/her designee and recommendations will be made to avoid similar accidents.

---

Legal Reference(s):

<sup>1</sup> "Proper fit" means the lap belt of the safety belt or safety harness is positioned low across the thighs and the shoulder belt is positioned over the collarbone and away from the neck.

ORS 811.210  
ORS 811.215  
ORS 815.055  
ORS 815.080  
ORS 820.100 to 820.190

OAR 437-002-0220 to 0227  
OAR 581-022-1420  
OAR 581-053-0002 to-0015  
OAR 735-102-0010

Reviewed: 4/22/02, 4/2/12  
Approved: 4/22/02, 4/2/12

<sup>1</sup> "Proper fit" means the lap belt of the safety belt or safety harness is positioned low across the thighs and the shoulder belt is positioned over the collarbone and away from the neck.