

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING AND RESPONSIBILITY

~~School bus drivers will operators shall~~ observe all state statutes and ~~regulations administrative rules~~ governing traffic safety and school bus operation. The district ~~will shall~~, at the beginning of each school year, provide each school bus driver ~~with~~ a copy of: (a) the OSPI School Bus Driver Handbook; (b) the district's policy and procedure on the prohibition of harassment, intimidation and bullying; (c) all state and local rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of a school bus; and (d) (SPI), any additional laws and/or rules which have been recently enacted and which apply to school bus drivers, and the district's written rules for student conduct on buses.

~~Each bus driver must have a type I school bus driver's authorization issued by the superintendent of public instruction, a passenger endorsement and either a Class B or C commercial driver's license. The bus driver shall also hold a valid and current first aid card. An air brake endorsement is required for a driver who is assigned to a bus with air brakes. A bus driver is required to pass a Department of Transportation and a Superintendent of Public Instruction physical examination every two years.~~

~~Any district employee, other than a bus driver, who transports students for school activities in a district or private vehicle must have a valid driver's license issued by the state department of licensing, or a state of residence, and proof of insurance. Such drivers may only operate vehicles with seating capacity of ten or less and may not drive students on scheduled routes between home and school.~~

~~Prior to driving students or a least once per school year, each driver must submit to his or her principal or supervisor a photocopy of his or her license and proof of insurance, plus written assurance of the physical health necessary to safely transport children, that he or she has not had a driving license privilege suspended or revoked in the preceding three years, that he or she has not had three or more speeding tickets in excess of ten miles per hour over the speed limit within any twelve month period in the preceding three years, and that he or she has not been convicted or undergone a deferred prosecution for any misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony that is related to the duty of driving students. Such offenses include but are not limited to those listed in WAC 180-20-101 (1) (j). Employees are responsible for reporting any potentially disqualifying offenses.~~

~~In addition, for any employees whose job assignment or supplemental contract requires the regularly scheduled transportation of students in vehicles with seating capacities of ten or fewer, the district shall obtain a certified abstract of the driving record of the employee before the employee transports students. Prior authorization is not necessary for persons transporting students in an emergency affecting health and/or safety.~~

Driver Qualifications

School bus drivers shall meet the qualification requirements established by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and applicable state and federal law.

General School Bus Driver Requirements

School bus drivers shall: (a) wear a properly adjusted seat belt whenever the school bus is in motion; (b) immediately report any suspected malfunction or needed repair of the school bus in their charge; (c) only allow individuals authorized under the provisions of chapter 392-144 WAC to operate the school bus with passengers on board. No person except the driver shall be allowed to sit in the driver's seat; (d) Except in accordance with district policy no school bus driver shall leave the driver's seat without first securing the school bus by setting the parking brake, placing the transmission in the manufacturer's recommended position, shutting off the engine, and removing the key from the ignition switch. The keys shall be kept in the driver's or other authorized school official's possession; (e) All school bus drivers shall meet the qualifications established in chapter 392-144 WAC prior to transporting students; (f) Except in accordance with district policy, a school bus driver shall not use a personal electronic device for personal communications while operating a school bus, except for the use of such devices to report illegal activity, summon medical or other emergency help, or prevent injury to a person or property, as permitted under RCW 46.61.667. For the purpose of this section, operating a school bus is defined as when the school bus

engine is running; and (g) Except in accordance with district policy, a school bus driver shall not distribute anything edible to students riding the bus.

Supervision of Students

When a teacher, coach or other ~~certificated~~ staff member is assigned to accompany students on a school bus, such person ~~will~~ be ~~primarily~~ responsible for the behavior of the students in his/her charge and will ensure that passengers comply with state rules and district policies and procedures for student transportation. However, the bus driver will have. ~~The bus driver shall have~~ final authority and responsibility.

Charter Buses or Excursion Carriers or Subcontracted Carriers

~~When the district utilizes charter buses or excursion carriers, the driver shall not have unsupervised access to children and children shall be supervised by a responsible employee of the district.~~ Every contract between ~~the~~ school district and a charter bus carrier or excursion carrier, or subcontracted carrier shall ~~require~~ contain a carrier profile report indicating a satisfactory rating from the Washington utilities and transportation commission before any service is provided. Supervision of children on trips under this subsection shall be designated to a specific employee of the district who shall ensure that the driver shall have not have unsupervised access to students during the trip.

Cross References: 6690 - Contracting for Transportation Services

Legal References: WAC 392-145-031 General school bus driver requirements
WAC 392-145-011 School district requirements
RCW 28A.160.210 School bus drivers — Training and qualifications — Rules
Chapter 46.25 RCW Uniform commercial driver's license act
Chapter 392-144 WAC School bus driver qualifications
WAC 392-145-016 Rules for students riding school buses
WAC 392-145-021 General operating requirements
49 CFR 382 FMCSA CDL Controlled substances and alcohol use and testing

Management Resources: 2018 - August Issue
Policy News, April 2007 School Bus Driver Qualifications
Policy News, October 2006 OSPI Updates Bus Driver Rules

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