

The Board of Trustees for St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 adopts this Policy to establish guidelines, obligations, and expectations of employees who, within the scope of their employment, have occasion to operate District-owned vehicles and equipment, or personal vehicles for official District purposes.

DISTRICT VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE

St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 District employees shall operate District-owned vehicles and equipment only when the employee:

1. Is authorized by their position and/or supervisor to act as the operator of a vehicle or piece of equipment;
2. Holds a valid Idaho operator's license for each class of vehicle or piece of equipment they are approved to operate. The District may verify license status by checking motor vehicle records; and
3. Has demonstrated, to the supervisor's satisfaction, that they are qualified to operate the vehicle or piece of equipment.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Employees operating District vehicles and equipment shall:

1. Inspect vehicles or equipment before operating to ensure the vehicle or equipment will function in a safe manner;
2. Refrain from eating or engaging in other activities which may distract an individual from safely operating a vehicle or piece of equipment;
3. Operate such vehicles and equipment in a safe, responsible manner, and in compliance with State laws and regulations governing vehicle use;
4. Pull off to a safe area and stop driving to use a cell phone in a vehicle;
5. Be personally responsible for traffic fines, court appearances, and other personal judgements or penalties arising from their violation of traffic laws while operating such vehicles or equipment;
6. Refrain from operating any such vehicles or equipment when under the influence of controlled substances, medications, or mental or physical conditions which could impair their ability to properly operate a vehicle or piece of equipment;

7. Return such vehicles and equipment daily to the District facility designated for that vehicle or piece of equipment unless it is taken to the operator's residence as authorized and described in this Policy.
8. If the vehicle or piece of equipment is taken to the operator's residence as authorized by this Policy, the operator shall ensure the vehicle or equipment is made available for routine maintenance as well as unscheduled maintenance when required;
9. Report any loss, redaction, or suspension of their operator license or endorsements status to their supervisor as soon as they are notified of the licensing status change;
10. Report all accidents immediately to the supervisor and/or to the Risk Management Specialist so that they can be reported to the District's insurance carrier. All Commercial Driver's License holders shall comply with federal and State laws regarding the reporting of accidents, citations, or driving convictions and shall immediately report such occurrences to their supervisor;
11. Use of District fueling cards and facilities, maintenance and repair facilities, and supplies shall be limited to bona fide District vehicles and equipment. District materials and facilities shall not be used for personal benefit;
12. Not allow other persons to use their refueling card or request that others allow them to use refueling cards which are not assigned to them; and
13. Be evaluated in connection with their use of District vehicles and equipment as part of their annual job performance review.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT OF VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Any employee involved in one (1) or more of the following circumstances while operating District vehicles and equipment will immediately lose their operational authorization:

1. Unlawful use, distribution, dispensing, manufacture, or possession of a controlled substance;
2. Operating any District vehicle or piece of equipment while under the influence of alcohol, any drug, or the combined influence of alcohol and any drug;
3. Use of any District vehicle or piece of equipment for illegal or unauthorized purposes;
4. Operating a vehicle or piece of equipment in a manner which endangers the safety or life of others;
5. Clearly negligent use of District-owned vehicles or pieces of equipment.

Any employee convicted of any of the items listed in the above section of this Policy, regardless of whether it occurred while operating a District vehicle or piece of equipment, may be permanently prohibited from operating District vehicles and equipment, and/or subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

EMERGENCY CALL OUT

In specific instances, the Superintendent and/or department directors may establish specific positions and/or classes of employees who are subject to emergency callout. These employees or classes of employees may be assigned a District vehicle to keep at their personal residence in order to more quickly respond to emergency circumstances. Employees so designated may be changed at any time by the Superintendent and/or department supervisor without consultation or negotiations with the affected employee or classes of employees. When an employee is designated to have a District vehicle at their residence for emergency callout use, the vehicle shall not be used for personal purposes.

DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

All vehicles and equipment shall be disposed of only by sales events and methods which are approved by the Board of Trustees and by rules adopted by the State for disposal of surplus property. Each sales event must be approved individually by the Board of Trustees. Revenue received from the sale of school buses will be placed in a separate account and used only for the purchase of school buses.

ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 establishes the following guidelines for reporting, investigating, and documenting all accidents, collisions, and incidents involving District vehicles and equipment:

1. All accidents/collisions/vandalism (herein collectively referred to as “accidents”) involving District vehicles, regardless of the amount of damages or personal injuries sustained, shall be reported immediately to the driver’s supervisor and/or any other identified District personnel. Failure to report an accident shall be cause for disciplinary action;
2. An employee involved in any accident while operating District vehicles or equipment may be required to submit to a drug and alcohol test. Failure to submit to a drug and alcohol test; or testing positive for drug use; or prohibited levels of alcohol as outlined in applicable law; shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination;
3. An accident report shall be completed within twenty-four (24) hours of any accident regardless of the amount of damage sustained to any District vehicle or equipment;

4. All accidents shall be investigated by the Transportation Supervisor or his or her designee;
5. All accidents involving any personnel injury and/or accidents for which the estimated damages exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) shall be reviewed by the Superintendent or his or her designee;
6. The Transportation Department Safety Committee comprised of the Transportation Supervisor, lead mechanic, and one (1) regular route driver shall hold a fact-finding meeting to determine if the accident was preventable or non-preventable;
 - A. The driver involved in the accident has the right to attend the fact-finding meeting to explain the situation and answer questions of the Committee;
 - B. The Committee shall inform the driver of their findings in a timely manner; and
 - C. An employee may appeal the findings and recommendations of the Committee by following the appeals procedure outlined in the District Grievance Policy.
7. Administrative actions shall be taken based on the findings and recommendations of the Committee as follows:
 - A. If the accident was non-preventable, a statement to that effect shall be included in the employee's personnel file and no disciplinary action will be recommended; and
 - B. If the accident was preventable, procedures of remediation and disciplinary action shall be implemented according to the degree of culpability, severity of the accident, and service record of the employee.

DEFINITIONS

"Equipment" for purposes of this Policy means utility vehicles, construction, and lawn equipment.

"Vehicle" for purposes of this Policy means buses, vans, and passenger vehicles, maintenance and delivery trucks.

Policy Cross Reference:

Legal Reference:

Other Reference:

Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations
Idaho Department of Education, Idaho's School Bus Driver Training Classroom Curriculum

Policy History:

Reviewed:

11/09/2015

Adopted:

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