

Each year, no later than the regular Board of Trustees meeting in August, the Superintendent or designee shall present their recommendation for bus routes, school safety busing zones, non-transportation zones, and turn-around points to the Board of Trustees. The Board shall consider student health and safety in considering the recommendations of the Superintendent or designee.

DEFINITIONS

“Safety Busing Zone” shall mean the transportation of a student who lives less than one and one-half (1.50) miles from school when, in the judgment of the Board of Trustees, the age, health, or safety of the student warrants such action.

“Non-Transportation Zone” shall mean an area of the District designated by the Board of Trustees which is not served by District transportation because of scarcity of students or remoteness, or because the condition of roads makes such service impractical.

ESTABLISHING BUS ROUTES

In order to operate the transportation system as safely and efficiently as possible, the following factors shall be considered in establishing bus routes:

1. School bus routes shall be established with due consideration of the sum total of local conditions affecting the safety, economic soundness, and convenience of its operation including road conditions, condition of bridges and culverts, hazardous crossings, presence of railroad tracks and arterial highways, extreme weather conditions and variations, length of route, number of families and students to be serviced, availability of turn-around points, capacity of bus, and other related factors. Further, the Board of Trustees shall consider the criteria set out in its measuring and scoring instrument.
2. School bus drivers are encouraged to make recommendations in regard to establishing or changing routes.
3. Parents/Guardians should be referred to the Superintendent or designee for any request of change in routes, stops, or schedules.

BUS STOPS

Buses should stop only at designated places approved by school authorities. Exceptions should be made only in cases of emergency and inclement weather conditions. Bus stops shall be chosen with safety in mind and protection of the health of the student.

School loading and unloading zones are to be established and marked to provide safe and orderly loading and unloading of students. The principal of each building is responsible for the conduct of students waiting in loading zones.

DELAY IN SCHEDULE

The driver is to notify the administration of a delay in schedule. The administration will notify parents/guardians on routes and radio stations, if necessary.

RESPONSIBILITIES – STUDENTS

Students must realize that safety is based on group conduct. Talk should be in conversational tones at all times. There should be no shouting or loud talking which may distract the bus driver. There should be no shouting at passersby. Students should instantly obey any command or suggestions from the driver and/or his or her assistants.

A student may be denied transportation upon a showing of good cause. The reason for denial of transportation services shall be provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing.

RESPONSIBILITIES – PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The interest and assistance of each parent/guardian is a valued asset to the transportation program. Parents'/Guardians' efforts towards making each bus trip a safe and pleasant experience are requested and appreciated. The following suggestions are only three (3) of the many ways parents/guardians can assist:

1. Ensure that students are at the bus stop in sufficient time to efficiently meet the bus;
2. Properly prepare students for weather conditions; and
3. Encourage school bus safety at home. Caution students regarding safe behavior and conduct while riding on the school bus.

SAFETY

The Superintendent shall develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills, which complies with State law and/or Federal Safety Guideline 17, and for student conduct while riding on buses.

If the bus and driver are present, the driver is responsible for the safety of his or her passengers, particularly for those who must cross a roadway prior to loading or after leaving the bus. Except in emergencies, no bus driver shall order or allow a student to board or disembark at other than his or her assigned stop unless so authorized by the Superintendent. In order to assure the safety of all, the bus driver may hold students accountable for their conduct during the course of transportation and may recommend

corrective action against a student. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from using corporal punishment.

Further, the Board of Trustees shall consider the criteria set out in its measuring and scoring instrument.

The bus driver is responsible for the use of the warning and stop signaling systems and the consequent protection of his or her passengers. Failure to use the system constitutes negligence on the part of the driver.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Board of Trustees recognizes the unpredictability and resulting dangers associated with the weather in Idaho. To achieve the maximum safety for students and efficiency of operation, the Superintendent is empowered to make decisions as to the emergency operation of buses, the cancellation of bus routes, and the closing of schools in accordance with his or her best judgment. The Board may develop guidelines in cooperation with the Superintendent to assist him or her in making such decisions.

Policy Cross Reference:

Board Policy No. 702.13 Safety Busing

Legal Reference:

Idaho Code §33-1501 Transportation Authorized
Idaho Code §33-1502 Bus Routes – Non-Transportation Zones
Idaho Code §49-1422 Overtaking and Passing a School Bus

Other Reference:

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

Policy History:

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