

Bus Routes, Stops and Non-Transportation Zones

Each year, no later than the regular Board of Trustee's meeting in August, the Superintendent or designee shall present their recommendation for bus routes, school safety busing zones and non-transportation zones to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall consider student health and safety in considering the recommendations of the superintendent or designee. Any changes or alterations may be made by the Superintendent until the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Superintendent will annually review the school bus routes, stops and loading zones for safety, changing student population and supervision of students. Permission for operating buses on private property will be secured from the appropriate party. In order to get Board permission for school bus travel on private roads, the roads shall be maintained at or above the level of maintenance for well traveled county roads.

Definitions:

Safety Busing Zone: The transportation of a student who lives less than one and one-half (1 ½) miles from school when, in the judgment of the Board of Trustees, the age or health or safety of the students warrants such action. (See Safety Busing Policy No. 8101.)

Non-Transportation Zone: An area of the District designated by the Board which is not served by District transportation because of sparsity of students, remoteness, or condition of roads makes such service impractical

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 children 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. (Policy 8110F.)
2. School bus drivers are encouraged to make recommendations in regard to establishing or changing routes.
3. Parents should be referred to the Superintendent 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. Only under the authorization of a written note from a parent or guardian will a student be let off at a scheduled stop other than his or her usual stop.

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 on routes if necessary.

Responsibilities - Pupils

Pupils 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. Pupils should instantly obey any command or suggestions from the driver and/or his/her assistants.

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

Responsibilities - Parents

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

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

Responsibilities – School Board, Administration, and Staff

1. School Board- final authority on major policy issues.
2. Superintendent- implementation of Board Policy
3. Bus Driver- inspect bus on a daily basis, discipline officer, maintains daily records of mileage, students, and conditions of the bus.
4. Teachers and Coaches- chief discipline officer(s) on other than regular schedules runs (time schedules, head counts, etc.)
5. Chaperons operate under direct authority of certified staff member or administrator.

6. Bus Contractor- responsible for all service, maintenance and safety inspections so buses are in safe operating condition.

Safety

The Superintendent shall develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills, and for student conduct while riding on buses.

If the bus and driver are present, the driver is responsible for the safety of his/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/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. Bus overloads exceeding safety standards are prohibited. Standing is prohibited and passengers will be limited to the vehicles carrying capacity.

Further, the Board of Trustees shall consider the criteria set out in its measuring and scoring instrument which by this reference is incorporated and attached to this policy as The bus driver is responsible for the use of the warning and stop signaling systems and the consequent protection of his/her passengers. Failure to use the system constitutes negligence on the part of the driver. The determination of safe roads for school bus travel shall be made by the Superintendent. The school bus shall travel only on maintained county, state or city roads except in the case in which the Board of Trustees determines it would be hazardous to leave a student on a county, state or city road.

Inclement Weather

The Board recognizes the unpredictability and resulting dangers associated with the weather in Idaho. To achieve the maximum safety for children 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 school in accordance with his/her best judgment. The Board may develop guidelines in cooperation with the Superintendent to assist him/her in making such decisions.

Cross Reference: 8110 Safety Busing

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-1501 Transportation Authorized
I.C. § 33-1502 Bus Routes—Non-transportation zones

Policy History:

Adopted on: 7/15/09

Revised on: