

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

The safety and welfare of students shall be the first consideration in all matters pertaining to transportation. The Board directs the Superintendent to oversee development of regulations to govern:

- A. Student conduct on buses;

- B. Inservice education for bus drivers to include:
 - 1. Management of students;
 - 2. Safe driving practices; recognition of hazards;
 - 3. Special concerns in transporting students with disabilities;
 - 4. Emergency procedures on the road;
 - 5. Accident reports;
 - 6. Information on required drug and alcohol testing.

At the end of the route, all drivers shall check the bus thoroughly to ensure that no student is left on the vehicle.

Ban on the Consumption of Food or Drink on School Buses

The Board of Education believes that it is important to establish policies that will ensure the health and safety of its students. The Board is sensitive to the needs of students who have severe allergic reactions to certain food items, such as peanuts and tree nuts. School based initiatives have already been implemented regarding the proper handling, transport, clean-up and disposal of certain food items that are known to cause severe allergic reactions in students who have such food allergies. School based initiatives have also sought to educate and sensitize students and staff about the seriousness of food allergies.

Consistent with these school based initiatives, there will be absolutely no consumption of any food or drink on any of the school buses. Students who bring bag lunches or snacks with them to school on the school bus shall transport all food items in a sealed container or a sealed lunch bag, which may not, under any circumstances, be opened on the bus. In particular, students transporting lunches or snacks that contain any form of peanut or tree nut substance shall only transport such items in sealed containers. Students who fail to obey this policy will be subject to the disciplinary code enforced by school officials.

Accidents

Forms shall be provided for the immediate reporting of all incidents involving a District-owned or contracted vehicle that include any of the following:

- A. Physical injury to anyone concerned, no matter how minor;

- B. Property damage of any kind, even if the financial loss is negligible;

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C. Failure of any mechanical function of a District-owned or contracted vehicle during operation, even if no injury or damage results.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to direct an investigation on the report and to comply with the law. The information gained shall be considered in evaluating personnel performances, and in scheduling inspection of vehicles.

Drills

Emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted regularly throughout the school year to acquaint the student riders thoroughly with emergency situations. An emergency evacuation drill shall be held as soon as possible after the opening day of school and then at least twice a year.

Vehicles and Equipment

All District-owned or contracted vehicles used to transport children shall be maintained in such condition as to provide safe and efficient transportation service with a minimum of delays and disruption due to mechanical or equipment failure.

All District-owned or contracted vehicles used to transport children shall conform with state standards for such vehicles and shall be equipped with all safety devices required by code and statute.

All passengers on buses equipped with seat belts shall wear properly adjusted and fastened seat belts or other child restraint systems at all times while the bus is in operation.

Bus Drivers

Drivers of all Type I and Type II school vehicles used to transport District students shall be licensed by the State of New Jersey as bus drivers. They shall comply with all state requirements on physical condition, criminal history clearance, etc. The District shall be in compliance with all drug and alcohol testing requirements of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act and implementing regulations and shall provide all bus drivers with required information on them (see policy 4219.23 Employee substance abuse). Bus drivers are responsible for the safety of students entering, riding, and departing their vehicle.

<u>Legal References:</u> <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-7.1	Criminal history record; employee in regular contact with students; grounds for disqualification from employment; exception
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:25-2	Authority over students
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:39-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Transportation To and From Schools
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:39-17, -18, -19, -20	
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 39:3-10.9 <u>et seq.</u>	New Jersey Commercial Driver License Act
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 39:3B-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	School Buses, Equipment and Regulations
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 39:3B-10 through -12	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:27-1. <u>seq.</u>	Student Transportation
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:27-11.1, -11.2, -12.2, -13.3	

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Legal References: (continued)

34 CFR Part 85.100 et seq., Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)

49 U.S.C. § 31306 et seq.- Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991

49 C.F.R. Part 40.1 et seq. - Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug Testing Programs

49 C.F.R. Part 382.101 - Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing

49 C.F.R. Part 391.1 et seq. - Qualification of drivers

Policies and Procedures Manual for Student Transportation, N.J. State Department of Education

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (September 2002)

Cross References:

*3516	Safety
*3541.1	Transportation routes and services
*4211	Recruitment, selection and hiring
*4219.23	Employee substance abuse
*4231/4231.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
*5131	Conduct/discipline
*5142	Student safety

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Safety, Bus Safety, Transportation Safety, Student Transportation, Student Transportation

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