

The Board of Trustees of the Minidoka County Joint School District No. 331 is authorized by Idaho Code 33-1501 through 33-1511 to provide transportation of students to and from public schools and is made responsible for the operation of any transportation system established. The Board of Trustees is empowered by the act to adopt such policies and regulations, not inconsistent with law and with regulations adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education, as are necessary to meet those responsibilities attendant to the operation of an efficient transportation system. The Board may at its discretion, provide student transportation for area private schools. Private school transportation requires reimbursement according to State Board of Education rules.

The Board of Trustees' primary concern in providing transportation services to students is the safety and protection of the health of students.

Provisions:

The following provisions are used to administer this policy:

1. The School District shall own, operate, and maintain the District's school bus fleet.
2. All Idaho State Departments of Education Rules and Regulations are considered local policy and will be followed by all personnel within the Transportation Department.
3. The District shall provide transportation to and from school for a student who:

Transportation will be provided:

- ~~i. For students who live more than one and one half (1½) miles from school;~~
 - ~~ii. Is a student with a disability, whose IEP identifies transportation as a related service; or~~
 - ~~iii. In the judgment of the Board, has another compelling and legally sufficient reason to receive transportation services, including the age, health, or safety of the student.~~
- a. Resides at least 1½ miles from the nearest appropriate school, determined by the nearest and best route from the junction of the driveway of the student's home*1 and the nearest public road to the nearest door of the school the student attends or to a bus stop, whichever the case may be;
- *A day care center, family day care home, or a group day care facility may substitute for the student's residence for student transportation to and from school.
- ~~a.b.~~Is a student with a disability, whose IEP identifies transportation as a related service; A pupil with disabilities whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) requires transportation, as a related service is eligible for transportation regardless of distance from the school. Students who fail to respect the rights and safety of others by not obeying the bus rules of conduct may lose the privilege of riding the bus.

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~~c. If, in~~ the judgment of the Board, has another compelling and legally sufficient reason to receive transportation services, including the age, health, or safety of the student.

~~b.d.~~ Students may be expected to walk up to one and one-half (1½) miles to the bus.

~~e.e.~~ Students shall only be let off the bus at their designated bus stop or school. Any change in this policy shall be by prior written request from the student's parent/guardian.

~~3.4.~~ The reimbursement from Board approved routes for private school student will be based upon additional costs to the District. The Transportation Supervisor will be authorized to determine "additional cost" and to bill private schools for those costs. Board authorization is necessary for approval of private school student transportation.

~~4.5.~~ 4. The type of transportation provided by the District may be by a school bus or other vehicle, or by individual transportation, such as paying the parent or guardian for individually transporting the student.

~~5.6.~~ 5. — Bus Routes:

- a. Bus routes will be over public roads which are maintained by the Highway District. When roads become too rough, muddy, or hazardous, the route may be discontinued or rerouted until the situation is corrected. The Transportation Supervisor has the authority to change routes due to the above conditions.
- b. Travel over private roads is addressed on an individual basis and must be approved by the Board of Trustees.
- c. Adequate space must be provided for buses to turn around without backing up.
- d. If a bus turn around on private property is blocked, bus service will be discontinued. Bus services will continue when assurance is given to the Transportation Supervisor that the turn around will constantly be open for legal turning standards.
- e. Suitable stopping places must be available if the bus is to stop for loading or unloading of students.
- f. The School District establishes routes ~~with the aid by the use~~ of computers. These routes are established by the Transportation Supervisor and approved by the Superintendent of the School District and the Board of Trustees.
- g. Bus drivers are not permitted to make changes in routes unless authorized by the Transportation Supervisor and the Superintendent of Schools or designee. Any driver who makes an unauthorized change in the route will be subject to reprimand up to and including dismissal.

Homeless Students

Homeless students shall be transported in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and State law.

Foster Children

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the time in foster care, which procedures shall:

1. Ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation, and reasonable travel for the child to remain in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement; and
2. Ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the District will provide transportation to the school of origin if:
 - a. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the District for the cost of such transportation;
 - b. The District agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or
 - c. The District and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.

Safety

The District shall provide each new school bus driver with a school bus driver training program before allowing him or her to drive a bus carrying students. The District shall provide all experienced school bus drivers with at least ten hours of refresher school bus driver training each fiscal year. Such training shall meet the requirements described in the *Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations*. Documented training similar to that required by the District may be used to comply with new school bus driver training hours, unless the driver has a gap of more than four years in their previous driving experience.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills, and for student conduct while riding on buses, including for students with special needs.

The District shall ensure that transportation personnel have access to a library of resources to assist them in operating safe and efficient transportation services. These resources shall include:

1. Applicable federal, State, and local laws, codes, and regulations;
2. Applicable manuals and guidelines;
3. Online access to internet and other resources; and
4. Applicable trade journals and organizations' publications.

1-5. _____ No authorization will be granted to a driver to allow their pre-school age children to accompany them on bus routes unless granted by the Transportation Supervisor AND the Superintendent.

2-6. _____ The Superintendent shall develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills, and for student conduct while riding on buses, including for students with special needs.

7. Records Maintenance and Reporting - The District Contractor will maintain accurate records of all operations including bus runs, run mileage, categorized bus mileage, student rider counts, maintenance/repair records, and other related records necessary to documents safety and financial accountability. Information will be made available to the Department of Education for audit purposes upon request and shall be retained for a minimum of four (4) years, including the current fiscal year.



**LEGAL REFERENCE: Idaho Code §33-1501-§33-1511
Federal Highway Safety Guideline 17
Idaho Department of Education, Idaho’s School Bus Driver
Training Classroom Curriculum**

_____ 20 USC § 6312(c)- Every Student Succeeds Act
Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations

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