

SCHOOL-RELATED TRIPS

BP 3541.1(a)

Trips by School Vehicles

Note: Federal safety regulations enacted in 2000 govern the number of students that may be transported in vans. These regulations are applicable to the purchase or lease of new vans by Alaska school districts. After 1 September 2000, new vehicles designed by the manufacturer to carry 11 or more persons (rated capacity if equipped with full seating) that are used for transporting students to or from school or school-related activities are required to meet all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for school buses. As a result, passenger vans are limited to transporting a total of ten passengers, including the driver, unless the passenger van or suburban meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable to school buses. The large majority of passenger vans do not meet and comply with Federal school bus safety standards. Although used vans are not covered under the federal regulations, for risk management purposes, districts may want to require the new van standards for the purchase of used vans.

Besides taking students to and from school, the Board may approve transportation for field trips and school-sponsored activities. The Superintendent or designee shall regulate the use of the district transportation, including vans, for approved school-related activities. Student councils, parent-teacher associations, and any other organizations requesting transportation shall be fully responsible for the costs of the trip. To the extent that funding has been approved by the Board, such costs may be charged to the district.

Transportation by Private Automobile

Note: In spite of any waiver of liability, in certain cases a court may find schools liable for injuries to students occurring in private vehicles during school-sponsored activities. Therefore, AASB recommends that districts consult their attorneys before deciding whether or not to allow the use of private automobiles for school-related trips.

Private automobiles shall not be used to transport students on any school-related trips.

(cf. 6153 - School-sponsored Trips)

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