

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: March 8, 2024

NUMBER: 24-092

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed
Revisions to BP 3541.1
School-related Trips; First
Reading

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Track 1: Operational Improvements
Initiative: Optimize Business Practices

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 3541.1 School-related Trips and open for public comments.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when the law changes or specific needs occur. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board.

This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 3541.1 School-related Trips within the Business and Non-Instructional Operations series.

This update raises the recommended amount of private insurance for persons transporting students to \$1,000,000. It also revises the school related trip section to ensure that trips in school vans are covered by policy.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes, recommends approval and to open for public comments.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 3541.1 School-related Trips as presented and open for public comments;
2. Do not approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 3541.1 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 3541.1 School-related Trips as presented and open for public comments.

BP 3541.1 SCHOOL-RELATED TRIPS

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.

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: The following option and exhibit are provided for districts that allow transportation by private vehicles.

The Superintendent or designee may authorize the transportation of students by private automobile for approved field trips and activities when the vehicle is driven by an adult registered with the district for such purposes. Drivers shall be issued safety instructions and emergency information. All student passengers shall provide permission slips signed by their parents/guardians.

Drivers shall be required to possess a valid driver's license and liability insurance of at least \$100,000 per occurrence.

Note: AASB strongly recommends that districts require at least \$100,000 minimum liability. If desired, however, the district may change the above specification to read "liability insurance in amounts required by law."

Owners, drivers and passengers shall be informed that the registered owner and his/her insurance company are responsible for any accidents which may occur. District

personnel who frequently transport students in their private vehicles are urged to carry liability insurance of ~~\$300,000~~\$1,000,000 or more per occurrence.

A seat belt must be provided for each passenger. Trucks and pickups may not transport more persons than can safely sit in the passenger compartment.

Owners furnishing private vehicles shall not accept reimbursement from passengers in excess of the cost of operating the vehicle. Reimbursement for the use of private transportation may be made from district funds.

Transportation by other private means (boat, ATV, off-road vehicles, snow machines)

Note: AASB strongly recommends that districts require at least \$100,000 minimum liability. If desired, however, the district may change the above specification to read "liability insurance in amounts required by law."

The Superintendent or designee may authorize the transportation of students by other private means for approved field trips and activities when an adult registered with the district for such purposes operates the vehicle. Operators shall be issued safety instructions and emergency information. Operators must abide by the specific vehicle safety ratings such as passenger capacity, maximum speed and required safety equipment (helmets, life jackets, etc.)

All student passengers shall provide permission slips signed by their parents/guardians. Operators shall be required to possess a valid driver's license and strongly urged to carry liability insurance of at least \$100,000 per occurrence.

(cf. 6153 - School-sponsored Trips)

Adopted: February 25, 1994

Revised:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District