

# **Browning Public Schools**

## **Policy # 8123**

### **Policy Name: Bus Driver Training and Responsibility**

#### **Regulation:**

Bus drivers shall observe all state statutes and administrative rules governing traffic safety and school bus operation. At the beginning of each school year, the District will provide each driver with a copy of the District's written rules for bus drivers and for student conduct on buses.

Each bus driver will meet the qualifications established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, including possession of a valid Montana commercial driver's license (with school bus "S" and passenger "P" endorsements), receive ten (10) hours of in-service annually, and Department of Transportation-approved physician's certification that he or she is medically qualified for employment as a bus driver. The bus driver shall secure a valid standard first aid certificate from an authorized instructor, within two (2) months after being employed, and maintain a valid first aid certificate throughout employment as a bus driver. The bus driver must have five (5) years driving experience.

Bus drivers are prohibited from possessing, using, or being under the influence of a controlled substance while on District premises, while performing work for the District, or while in operation of control of a school bus or other district-owned vehicle. This prohibition includes employees possessing a "medical marijuana" card. Bus drivers are subject to all federal and state regulations regarding use of controlled substances by school bus drivers

A school bus driver is prohibited from operating a school bus while using a cellular phone, including hands free cellular phone devices, except:

- (1) During an emergency situation;
- (2) To call for assistance if there is a mechanical breakdown or other mechanical problem;
- (3) When the school bus is parked.

A teacher, coach, or other certified staff member assigned to accompany students on a bus will have primary responsibility for behavior of students in his or her charge. The bus driver has final authority and responsibility for the bus. The Superintendent will establish written procedures for bus drivers.

School bus drivers must hold a valid Montana school bus certificate in order for a district to receive state reimbursement for that driver's bus routes. Qualifications for bus drivers are prescribed by 20-10-103 MCA and by the board of Public Education in Arm 10.62.201. The first aid certificate required by ARM 10.64.201 must include certification in CPR, be signed by a certified instructor, and be received after an initial in-person training of at least four hours with annual renewals.

A driver may not operate a school bus without a valid, current certificate.

**The district recognizes from a risk management and student safety standard the importance of driver safety while transporting students. Therefore, the district will:**

- 1. Meet the federal standard on maximum driving time for drivers [OPTION]**
- 2. Require the following maximum driving time standards:**
  - a. No driver will be required to drive more than 8 hours following 6 consecutive hours off duty. [OPTION]**
  - b. No driver will be required to drive more than 5 hours following 3 consecutive hours off duty. [OPTION]**
  - c. No driver will be required to drive more than 6 hours following 4 consecutive hours off duty. [OPTION]**

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2 **Legal Reference:** § 20-10-103, MCA School bus driver qualifications  
3 10.7.111, ARM Qualification of Bus Drivers  
4 10.64.201, ARM Drivers  
5 § 50-46-205, MCA Limitations of Medical Marijuana Act

6 **Policy History:**

7 Adopted on: 1/11/11

8 Revised on: 6/29/16, 5/11/21  
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