

Policy EDC: Bus Safety Program

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 03/10/2003 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/13/2017 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/13/2017

School Bus Safety

Safety in all activities is foremost in providing educational opportunity for our students. It is the intent of the Board of Education, the Administration, as well as the staff of the Jackson County School District, to provide a safe environment and insure the well-being of all the students prior to, during, and following any school activity.

Toward this end the Board gives due concern to school bus safety. Safe boarding, riding, and departure of the bus shall be emphasized at every opportunity to all students of the schools by the administration, teaching staff, as well as school bus drivers. The district shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations of the State Board of Education that govern pupil transportation. The following guidelines shall be adhered to in relation to activities of the transportation department:

1. All buses meet the minimum specifications approved by the State Board of Education and are inspected on a quarterly basis, and are well-maintained and clean.
 2. Each bus driver has a valid bus driver's certificate and a commercial driver's license. Each driver operates the bus according to all specified safety procedures to ensure optimal safety of passengers. The school district has on file a yearly motor vehicle report on each driver and evidence that each driver has received two hours of in service training per semester assigned.
 3. A district staff member is assigned to supervise and evaluate all aspects of the transportation program, with emphasis on safety, bus driver performance, preventive maintenance, and efficient purchasing.
 4. Basic safety rules for boarding, riding, and departure of the school bus shall be taught to all riders at the beginning of the school year. This shall be conducted by administrators, teaching staff, transportation supervisors, bus drivers, or any other qualified staff member or consultant.
 5. A "Bus Evacuation" drill will be conducted each semester of the school year by the bus driver under the direction of the local transportation supervisor.
 6. It is the responsibility of the local transportation supervisor and the assistant superintendent to verify that the buses are kept in a safe, clean, and operable condition at all times.
 7. Vehicles which are utilized on field trips, athletic trips, etc. and are left unattended by the driver shall have ignition keys removed to a safe place and emergency brake engaged.
 8. Safety equipment required on all school buses shall be operable and shall equal state regulations for such vehicle.
 9. Bus schedules ensure arrival of all buses at their designated school sites prior to the start of the instructional day.
 10. All accidents ~~shall~~ must be investigated by the Supervisor of Transportation for the attendance center, ~~and district Director of Transportation.~~ Accidents shall be reported as required by State Regulations.
-