

BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT #52
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

Subject: School Bus Safety Program

Policy Number: EEAC Effective Date: 5/2019

Date of Original Policy and Revisions: 12/08, 12/10, 2/13, 2/16

Cancels Policy No.: _____ Dated: _____

Date of Next Review: 5/2022

POLICY

The Superintendent or designee will ensure instruction for all students in school bus safety and emergency evacuation procedures is provided. Drivers shall assist in the instruction.

Students who are regularly transported by the District shall receive the following instruction within the first six weeks of each half of the school year:

1. Safe school bus riding procedures, including but not limited to loading, unloading, crossing etc;
2. Use of emergency exits; and
3. Planned and orderly evacuation of the school bus in case of emergency, including participation in actual evacuation drills.

Students who are not regularly transported by the District will be given the following instruction at least once in the first half of each school year:

1. Safe school bus riding procedures; and
2. Use of emergency exits.

The District and/or contractor will document and maintain records of the content and dates of instruction.

Buses will not exceed vehicle design capacity for seating at any time unless an unforeseen or unusual circumstance arises. Passengers will be provided a seat that fully supports them. A seat that fully supports each person and meets the minimum standards and specifications of law will be provided at all times. A person who weighs 40 pounds or less must be properly secured with a child safety system that meets the minimum standards and specifications established by the Department of Transportation under ORS 815.055. A person over 40 pounds or who has reached the upper weight limit for the forward-facing car seat must use a booster seat until four feet nine inches or age eight and the adult belt properly fits.¹ A person who is taller than four feet nine inches or eight years of age or older must be properly secured with a safety belt or harness that meets the requirements under ORS 815.055. In accordance with ORS 811.210 and 811.215 vehicles used for student transportation in excess of 10,000 pounds are exempt from this requirement unless they have been equipped with lap belts. Vehicles in excess of 10,000 pounds that have been equipped with lap belts must meet child car seat requirements as set forth in law.

During adverse weather conditions, the Superintendent or designee may alter bus schedules or temporarily suspend bus services. The Superintendent or designee will advise local radio stations and other media of any changes in bus schedules or services.

In the case of emergency or disaster, evacuation of students will be carried out according to the District's emergency plan.

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REPORTS

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

END OF POLICY

REFERENCES

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 811.210](#)

[ORS 811.215](#)

[ORS 815.055](#)

[ORS 815.080](#)

[ORS 820.100 - 820.190](#)

[OAR 437-002-0220 to -0227](#)

[OAR 581-022-1420](#)

[OAR 581-053-0002 to -0015](#)

[OAR 581-053-0512 to -0555](#)

[OAR 735-102-0010](#)