
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

The safety and welfare of pupils shall be the first consideration in all matters pertaining to transportation. The board's responsibility for supervision of students begins at such time as the student boards the bus in the morning and ends after the student leaves the bus at the end of the school day. Children who become a serious disciplinary problem on the school bus may have their riding privileges suspended. The board directs the superintendent to oversee development of regulations to govern:

- A. Pupil conduct on buses;
- B. Inservice education for bus drivers to include:
 - 1. Management of pupils;
 - 2. Safe driving practices; recognition of hazards;
 - 3. Special concerns in transporting handicapped pupils;
 - 4. Emergency procedures on the road; accident report;
 - 5. Information on required drug and alcohol testing.

Accidents

Forms shall be provided for the immediate reporting of all incidents involving a district-owned or contracted vehicle that include any of the following:

- A. Physical injury to anyone concerned, no matter how minor;
- B. Property damage of any kind, even if the financial loss is negligible; and
- C. Failure of any mechanical function of a district-owned or contracted vehicle during operation, even if no injury or damage results.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to direct an investigation on the report and to comply with the law. The information gained shall be considered in evaluating personnel performances, and in scheduling inspection of vehicles.

Drills

Emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted regularly throughout the school year to acquaint the pupil riders thoroughly with emergency situations. An emergency evacuation drill shall be held as soon as possible after the opening day of school and then at least twice a year

Vehicles and Equipment

All district-owned or contracted vehicles used to transport children shall be maintained in such condition as to provide safe and efficient transportation service with a minimum of delays and disruption due to mechanical or equipment failure.

All district-owned or contracted vehicles used to transport children shall conform with state standards for such vehicles and shall be equipped with all safety devices required by code and statute.

All passengers on buses equipped with seat belts shall wear properly adjusted and fastened seat belts or other child restraint systems at all times while the bus is in operation.

Bus Drivers

Drivers of all Type I and Type II school vehicles used to transport district pupils shall be licensed by the State of New Jersey as bus drivers. They shall comply with all state requirements on physical condition, criminal history clearance, etc. The district shall be in compliance with all drug and alcohol testing requirements of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act and implementing regulations and shall provide all bus drivers with required information on them (see policy 4219.23 Employee substance abuse). Bus drivers are responsible for the safety of pupils entering, riding, and departing their vehicle.

Date: February 11, 2004

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:6-7.1	Criminal history record; employee in regular contact with pupils; grounds for disqualification from employment; exception
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:25-2	Authority over pupils
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:39-1 <u>et seq</u>	Transportation to and from schools

See particularly:

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17, -18, -19, -20

N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.9 et seq New Jersey Commercial Driver License Act

N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1.1 et seq School Buses, Equipment and Regulations

See particularly:

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1, -11.2, -12.2, -13.3

34 CFR Part 85.100, Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)

49 U.S.C. 2717 et seq – Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991

49 C.F.R. Part 40 – Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs

49 C.F.R. Part 382 – Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing

49 C.F.R. Part 391 – Qualification of drivers

Policies and Procedures Manual for Pupil Transportation, N.J. State Department of Education

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (September 2002)

Cross References:

3516 Safety

3541.1 Transportation routes and services

4211 Recruitment, selection and hiring

4219.23 Employee substance abuse

4231/4231.1 Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences

5131 Conduct/discipline

5142 Pupil safety