

District Bus Driver Training and Responsibility

Bus drivers shall observe all state statutes and administrative rules governing traffic safety and school bus operation. The district shall, at the beginning of each school year, provide each driver with a copy of the *School Bus Driver Handbook* supplied by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), any additional laws and/or rules that have been recently enacted and which apply to school bus drivers, and the district's written rules for student conduct on buses.

All school bus drivers shall meet the qualifications established in WAC 180-20 as is, or as hereafter amended.

Type 1

Each bus driver must have a Type 1 school bus driver's authorization issued by OSPI, a passenger endorsement, and a Class B commercial driver's license. The bus driver shall also hold a valid and current first-aid card. An air brake endorsement is required for all drivers. A bus driver is required to pass a Department of Transportation (DOT) and an OSPI physical examination every two (2) years. A bus driver may not have an accumulation of twenty (20) or more points on their Department of Licensing (DOL) abstract during the last five (5) year period.

Type 2

Any district employee, other than a bus driver, who transports students for school activities in a district or private vehicle, must have a Type 2 school activities driver's authorization issued by OSPI, a valid driver's license issued by the DOL, a valid and current first aid card, and a letter of assurance from a physician every two (2) years. Holders of Type 2 authorizations may only operate vehicles with seating capacity of ten (10) or less and may not drive students on scheduled routes between home and school. Authorization is not necessary for persons transporting students in an emergency affecting health and/or safety.

Supervision

When a teacher, coach, or other staff member is assigned to accompany students on a bus, such person shall be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students in his/her charge. The bus driver shall have final authority and responsibility. When the district utilizes charter buses or excursion carriers, the charter bus driver shall not have unsupervised access to children, and children shall be supervised by a responsible employee of the district. Every contract between a school district and charter bus or excursion carrier shall contain a carrier profile from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

Definitions:

Driver - Any person, employed by the Board of Directors of a school district, who operates a motor vehicle for the transportation of school children to and from school or for school-related activities.

Driving Time - All time spent at the driving controls of a motor vehicle in operation.

On Duty Time - From the time a person begins to work or is required to be in readiness to work until he/she is relieved from work and all related responsibility. On duty time includes all work for the school district and all work for other employers.

Twenty-four (24) Hour Period - Any twenty-four (24) consecutive-hour period beginning at 6:00 a.m.

The board directs the superintendent to prepare appropriate regulations to implement this policy.

Cross References:

(cf.: 2150 – Co-curricular and Non-curricular Activity Program)

(cf.: 2320 – Field Trips and Excursions)

(cf.: 5221 – Length of Work Day for Classified Employees)

(cf.: 5228 – Outside Employment)

Legal References:

RCW 28A.160.210 School bus driver's training and qualifications

RCW 28A.600.010 Government of schools, pupils employees, rules and regulations for due process

RCW 46.25 Uniform Commercial Driver's License Act

WAC 180-40-225 School District rules defining misconduct

WAC 392-144 School bus driver qualifications

WAC 392-145-015 General operating regulations

WAC 392-145-020 through 030 Rules for school bus drivers

WAC 392-145-035 Rules for students riding school buses

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