

Student Safety Walking to School and Riding Buses

A comprehensive school trip safety program will address school walk routes, bus safety and route plans, vehicle access to the school, circulation and parking at the school, pedestrian circulation on and around the school campus and safety education and enforcement.

A. Safety Advisory Committee

The superintendent will establish a Safety Advisory Committee (SAC) to develop a school trip safety program and to review safety concerns. The superintendent will develop specific responsibilities and reporting relationships of the committee, including how the SAC relates to individual school safety programs.

B. Bus Safety

The superintendent will develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills and for student conduct while riding on buses. The procedures for bus safety will include rules restricting bus access to students and those persons authorized by the superintendent and/or his or her designee(s) to ride the bus to and from any school activity.

The bus driver is responsible for the safety of his/her passengers, particularly for those who cross a roadway after leaving the bus. No bus driver will order or allow a student to disembark at other than his/her customary boarding or alighting place unless so authorized by the superintendent. In order to assure the safety of all, the bus driver may hold students accountable for their conduct during the course of transportation and may recommend corrective action against a student. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from using corporal punishment. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from allowing anyone to board the bus who is not a student or a person authorized to ride the bus by the superintendent and/or his or her designee(s).

C. Emergencies

In the event of an accident or other emergency, the bus driver will follow the emergency procedures in accordance with the School Bus Driver Handbook (SPI). A copy of the emergency procedures will be located in each bus. To insure the success of such emergency procedures, each bus driver will conduct an emergency evacuation drill within the first six weeks of each school semester. The district will conduct such other drills and procedures as may be necessary.

D. Student Conduct on Buses

The superintendent will establish written rules of conduct for students riding school buses. Such rules will include as a minimum the requirements of WAC 392-145-016 and will be reviewed annually by the superintendent and revised if necessary. If the rules are substantially revised, they will be submitted to the board for approval.

At the beginning of each school year, a copy of the rules of conduct for students riding buses will be provided to each student who is scheduled to ride a school bus. The classroom teacher and/or bus driver will review the rules with the students at or near the beginning of each school year. A copy of the rules be available on the district website and upon request at the district office.

E. Safe Route Plans

Suggested route plans shall be developed for each elementary school that has students who walk to and from school. It shall recommend school routes based on considerations of traffic patterns, existing traffic controls, and other crossing protection aids such as school patrols. These route plans shall limit the number of school crossings so that students move through the crossings in groups, allowing only one entrance-exit from each block to and from school. The route to school plan shall be distributed to all students with instructions that it be taken home and discussed with the parents.

Commented [LMD1]: Language from WSSDA's most recent update (June 2014)

Cross References:	Policy 3241	Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishment
	Policy 3246	Use of Reasonable Force
Legal References:	RCW 28A.600.010	Enforcement of rules of conduct — Due process guarantees — Computation of days for short-term and long-term suspensions
	WAC 392-144	School Bus Driver Qualifications
	WAC 392-145-060	Loading and Unloading Procedures
	WAC 392-145-016	Rules for students riding school buses
	WAC 392-145-021	General operating requirements
	WAC 392-400-225	School district rules defining misconduct – Distribution of rules

Management Resources:

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