

PROPOSED REVISION



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MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Student Safety Walking, Biking, and Riding School Buses

Bus Safety

The superintendent or designee shall 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 or designee to ride the bus to and from any school activity.**

The bus driver is responsible for the safety of **his/her their** passengers, particularly for those who cross a roadway after leaving the bus. No bus driver shall order or allow a student to disembark at other than **his/her their** customary boarding or **alighting stopping** place unless so authorized by the principal **or designee**. In order to **assure ensure** 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 or designee.**

Student Conduct on Buses

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

Student conduct will be consistent with the rules and regulations as set forth in [Board Policy 3244](#), Students Riding School Buses or Other District-Provided Transportation.

Emergencies

In the event of an accident or other emergency, the bus driver **shall should** follow the emergency procedures developed by the superintendent or designee in accordance with the School Bus Driver Handbook (SPI) **produced by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction**. A copy of the emergency procedures **will ought to** be **on file in the transportation office located in each bus**. To ensure the success of such emergency procedures, each bus driver will conduct an emergency evacuation drill for the students on **his/her their** bus within the first six (6) weeks of each school semester. The district or its transportation contractor will conduct such other drills and procedures as may be necessary.

Safe Routes to School Plan

Pursuant to [WAC 392-151-025](#), all elementary schools that have students who walk to and from school are required to develop a suggested route plan. These route plans shall limit the number of school crossings so that students move through the crossings in groups. The walking route plan shall be distributed to all students. All schools are encouraged to have a walking/biking route plan in place.

The district will conduct a walking and biking audit within a one-mile radius of the school and develop a Safe Routes To School walking/biking map or plan. The plan will recommend the best routes for students walking to and from school, as well as the best routes to and from school bus stops. In developing the plan, the committee will consider, at a minimum, the following:

- 1. traffic patterns;**
- 2. existing traffic controls;**
- 3. existing school patrols;**
- 4. limits on the number of school crossings so that students have to move through the crossings in groups;**
- 5. allowing only one entrance-exit from each block to and from school;**
- 6. routes that provide the greatest physical separation between walking children and traffic;**
- 7. routes that expose students to the lowest speeds and volumes of moving vehicles; and**
- 8. routes that include the fewest number of road or rail crossings.**

The superintendent or designee will review the plan and, upon their approval, distribute the plan to all students with instructions that it be taken home and discussed with parents. The plan will be routinely updated as conditions change. The superintendent or designee will include the plan in the district's School Wellness Plan to encourage parents and students who walk and bike to school to use the recommended routes.

Cross references:	Board Policy 3244	Students Riding School Buses or Other District-Provided Transportation
	Board Policy 3405 Procedure 6605P	<u>Student Wellness</u> Student Safety <u>Walking, Biking, and Riding School Buses</u>
Legal references:	RCW 28A.600.010	Enforcement of rules of conduct—Due process guarantees—Computation of days for short-term and long-term suspensions
	RCW 46.61.385	School patrol—Appointment—Authority—Finance—Insurance
	Chapter 392-144 WAC	School bus driver qualifications
	Chapter 392-145 WAC	Transportation—Operation rules

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[WAC 392-145-016](#)

Rules for students riding school buses

[WAC 392-145-021](#)

General operating requirements

[WAC 392-151-025](#)

Route plans

Adopted: November 21, 1980

Revised: September 25, 1995

Updated: June 2001

Updated: November 2006

Updated: May 2012

Revised: June 11, 2013

Updated: March 2017

Updated: February 2018

Updated: February 2020

Updated: July 2021

PROPOSED: July 2023