

Student Safety Walking, Biking, and Riding Buses

The district will adopt a comprehensive school trip safety program that addresses bus safety, walking and biking 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. Bus Safety

The superintendent or designee 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 or designee 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 bus stop unless so authorized by the superintendent or designee. In order to 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.

B. Emergencies

In the event of a collision or other emergency, the bus driver will, to the maximum extent possible, follow the emergency procedures in accordance with District Procedure. A copy of the emergency procedures will be available on each bus. To ensure the success of such emergency procedures, each bus driver will conduct an emergency evacuation drill within the first six weeks of each school semester and one verbal in between each actual emergency evacuation drill.

C. Student Conduct on Buses

The superintendent or designee will establish written rules of conduct for students riding school buses. Such rules will include as a minimum the requirements of [WAC 392-145-021](#) and will be reviewed annually by the superintendent or designee 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 families in the Back to School guide and posted on the Transportation Department page of the District website.

D. 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 following will be considered:

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: 3241 - Student Discipline
 6700 - Nutrition, Health, and Physical Education

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
 WAC 392-145-016 Rules for students riding school buses
 WAC 392-145-021 General operating requirements
 WAC 392-151-025 Route plans

Management Resources: 2023 – July Issue
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Classification: **Encouraged**

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