

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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 (SPI), and additional laws and/or rules which have been recently enacted and which apply to school bus drivers, and the District's written rules for student conduct on buses.

Each bus driver must have a Type 1 School Bus Driver's Authorization issued by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, a passenger endorsement, and either a Class B or C commercial driver's license. The bus driver shall also hold a valid and current first aid card. An air braked endorsement is required for a driver who is assigned to a bus with air brakes. A bus driver is required to pass a Department of Transportation and a Superintendent of Public Instruction physical examination every two years.

Any District employee, other than a bus driver, who transports students for school activities in a District or private vehicle must have a valid driver's license issued by the state Department of Licensing, or a state of residence, and proof of insurance. Such drivers may not drive students on scheduled routes between home and school.

In addition, for any employees whose job assignment or supplemental contract requires the regularly scheduled transportation of students in vehicles with seating capacities of ten or fewer, the District shall periodically obtain a certified abstract of the driving record of the employee.

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.

Legal References:

RCW 28A.160.210 School bus drivers, training and qualifications--Rules and regulations for
RCW 46.25 Uniform Commercial Drivers Act
WAC 180-20 School Transportation
WAC 392-145-015 General operating regulations
WAC 392-145-020 Rules for school bus drivers; through 030 Rules for students riding school buses

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