

POLICY

2015

5750

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Non-Instructional/Business Operations

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

The safe transportation of students to and from school is of primary concern in the administration of the school bus program. All state laws and regulations pertaining to the safe use of school buses shall be observed by drivers, students and school personnel.

To assure the safety and security of students boarding or exiting school buses on school property, it shall be unlawful for a driver of a vehicle to pass a stopped school bus when the red bus signal is in operation.

Use of Cell Phones and Portable Electronic Devices Prohibited

Use of portable electronic devices by a school bus driver while operating a school bus poses a potential safety risk. All school bus drivers are prohibited from using portable electronic devices while a bus is in operation.

Personal cell phones are to be placed in the "off" position when in the possession of the school bus driver while the bus is in operation. Cell phones may be used in case of emergency.

The following definitions shall govern the application and interpretation of this policy:

- a) "Portable electronic device" means any mobile telephone (hand held or "hands free"), personal digital assistant (PDA), portable device with mobile data access, laptop computer, pager, broadband personal communication device, two-way messaging device, electronic game, or portable computing device.
- b) "Using" means holding a portable electronic device while viewing, taking or transmitting images, playing games, or composing, sending, reading, viewing, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving or retrieving email, text messages, or other electronic data, or otherwise using the device for the purpose of communication.
- c) "In operation" means that the bus engine is running, whether the bus is in motion or not.

The Transportation Supervisor, in cooperation with the principals, has the responsibility of developing and publishing safety rules to be followed by drivers and passengers, including rules of student conduct. In order to ensure maximum safety to those riding school buses, it is necessary that students and drivers cooperate in this effort. There is no substitute for training to develop safe habits in pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

All buses and other vehicles owned and operated by the School District will have frequent safety inspections, and will be serviced regularly. The transportation supervisor will maintain a comprehensive record of all maintenance performed on each vehicle.

(Continued)

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Non-Instructional/Business Operations

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM (Cont'd.)

Every bus driver is required to report promptly any school bus accident involving death, injury, or property damage. All accidents, regardless of damage involved, must be reported at once to the Transportation Supervisor.

Education Law Section 3623
8 NYCRR Section 156.3
Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1174, subdivisions a and b

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #5761 -- Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers and Other Safety-Sensitive Employees.

Adopted: 1/12/99
Revised: 02/11/15