

POLICY NO. 4060
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DRIVER TRAINING AND RESPONSIBILITY
Type 1 - School Bus Driver

POLICY:

Bus operators 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), any 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, or either a Class B or C status, a Commercial Driver's License with a P-1 (passenger), and an S Endorsement. An Air Brake Restriction must be lifted for a driver who is assigned to a bus with air brakes. The driver shall also hold a valid and current first aid card.

A bus driver is required to pass a Department of Transportation and a Superintendent of Public Instruction physical examination every two (2) years. On an annual basis, each driver will request that the State of Washington Department of Licensing forward a driving record abstract to the Pupil Transportation Cooperative.

All drivers must notify their immediate supervisor if their license is suspended, revoked, or canceled, or if they are disqualified from operating a commercial vehicle by the end of the business day after receiving notice of the action. Written notification of all traffic convictions must be submitted within thirty (30) days of conviction. Additionally, in the event a driver has his/her license disqualified, his/her position as a school bus driver shall be subject to suspended or termination.

When a teacher, coach, or other certificated 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 and shall ensure that passengers comply with state rules and district policies and procedures for

student transportation. The bus driver shall have final authority and responsibility.

When the District utilizes charter buses or excursion carriers, the driver shall not have unsupervised access to students and the students shall be supervised by a responsible employee of the district. Every contract between a school district and charter bus or excursion carrier shall contain a carrier profile from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

Drivers will be disqualified for the following:

- (1) Suspended or revoked license in the last five years.
- (2) Three or more speeding tickets in excess of ten miles per hour over the posted speed limit within the last five years.
- (3) Driver has been convicted or undergone a deferred prosecution for any misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony that is related to the duty of driving students.
- (4) Any offenses including, but not limited to, those listed in WAC 392-144-103.

Employees are responsible for reporting any potential disqualifying offenses within twenty (20) calendar days in writing to their employer of any filing of criminal charge involving conduct not meeting the standards in WAC 392-144-140.

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 School Transportation
WAC 392-145-015 General operating regulations
WAC 392-145-020 through 030 Rules for school bus drivers; Rules for students riding school buses