

Safety is of paramount concern in providing student transportation services. Consistent with the board's goals for student safety, all drivers involved in transporting students must comply with the following board requirements.

A. SCHOOL BUS AND ACTIVITY BUS DRIVERS

School bus and activity bus drivers must:

1. possess required licenses and all other qualifications required by law;
2. undergo and follow all training required by law governing school bus and activity bus passenger safety
3. not operate a school or activity bus on a public street, highway or public vehicular area while using a mobile telephone or related technology (i.e. hands-free technology such as Bluetooth) while the bus is in motion, unless such use is for the sole purpose of communicating in an emergency situation;
4. use the North Carolina crossing signal required by the State Board of Education to communicate to students when it is safe to cross the street to board the bus and when it is safe to cross the street after exiting the bus
5. report to the principal any misconduct that is in violation of any of the student behavior policies in the 4300 series or school rules;
6. use reasonable judgment in the operation of the buses;
7. make reasonable efforts to maintain good order of the students being transported;
8. not permit any person to ride who is not assigned to the bus or has not received express permission of the principal or other designated official;
9. promptly report to the principal or other designated official any defect or other concern regarding the safety of the school bus, activity bus or other vehicle operated by the school system; and
10. report to the principal or other designated official by the next work day any moving violation citations received while operating any motor vehicle, whether on or off duty.

B. OTHER DRIVERS

Other drivers, including volunteer drivers, must:

1. possess required licenses and all other qualifications required by law;
2. report to the principal by the next working day any moving violation citations received while operating any motor vehicle, whether on or off duty; and
3. carry insurance if operating a privately owned vehicle.

If the board requires a school social worker to increase his or her private automobile liability coverage and/or to add a business use rider in order to transport students in his or her private vehicle, the social worker will be reimbursed for the additional premium charged and/or for the increased liability limits of the added rider.

The superintendent or designee shall make copies of this policy and other related policies available to drivers.

Legal References: G.S. 20-7(f)(2), -137.4, -218; 115C-47(25a), -241, -242, -244 to -246, -248, -251, -317.1; State Board of Education Policies TRAN-006 and -010; Handbook for School Bus Drivers, Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, available at <http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/driver/schoolbus/>

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators (policy 7241), Insurance (policy 8340)

Adopted: May 14, 1998 to become effective July 1, 1998

Revised: January 11, 2007, January 10, 2008, May 10, 2012, January 21, 2016, September 14, 2017