

School Bus Safety Program

The superintendent will ensure instruction for all students in school bus safety and emergency evacuation procedures is provided. Drivers shall assist in the instruction.

Students who are regularly transported by the district shall receive the following instruction within the first six weeks of each half of the school year:

1. Safe school bus riding procedures, including but not limited to loading, unloading, crossing etc;
2. Use of emergency exits; and
3. Planned and orderly evacuation of the school bus in case of emergency, including participation in actual evacuation drills.

Students who are not regularly transported by the district will be given the following instruction at least once in the first half of each school year:

1. Safe school bus riding procedures; and
2. Use of emergency exits.

The district will document and maintain records of the content and dates of instruction.

Buses will not exceed vehicle design capacity for seating at any time unless an unforeseen or unusual circumstance arises. Passengers will be provided a seat that fully supports them. A seat that fully supports each person and meets the minimum standards and specifications of law will be provided at all times. A person who weighs 40 pounds or less must be properly secured with a child safety system that meets the minimum standards and specifications established by the Department of Transportation under ORS 815.055. A person over 40 pounds or who has reached the upper weight limit for the forward-facing car seat must use a booster seat until four feet nine inches or age eight and the adult belt properly fits.¹ A person who is taller than four feet nine inches or eight years of age or older must be properly secured with a safety belt or harness that meets the requirements under ORS 815.055. In accordance with ORS 811.210 and 811.215 vehicles used for student transportation in excess of 10,000 pounds are exempt from this requirement unless they have been equipped with lap belts. Vehicles in excess of 10,000 pounds that have been equipped with lap belts must meet child car seat requirements as set forth in law.

During adverse weather conditions, the superintendent may alter bus schedules or temporarily suspend bus services. The superintendent or his/her designee will advise local radio stations and other media of any changes in bus schedules or services.

¹ "Proper fit" means the lap belt of the safety belt or safety harness is positioned low across the thighs and the shoulder belt is positioned over the collarbone and away from the neck.

In the case of emergency or disaster, evacuation of students will be carried out according to the district's emergency plan.

An accident review board will study accidents involving district buses and will make recommendations to avoid similar accidents.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 811.210
ORS 811.215
ORS 815.055
ORS 815.080
ORS 820.100 - 820.190

OAR 437-002-0220 to -0227
OAR 581-022-1420

OAR 581-053-0002 to -0015
OAR 581-053-0512 to -0555
OAR 735-102-0010