

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

The primary consideration in all matters pertaining to transportation is the safety and welfare of student riders. Safety precautions shall include the following.

1. The transportation program meets all state requirements regarding the testing and approval of bus drivers, standards for buses and safe speeds.
2. Drivers of Board-owned, leased, contracted or operated vehicles other than school buses have met state training qualifications and the vehicles have been equipped for safety and signage according to State law.
- ~~3. Special limits are set for students if terrain, age of student, traffic, lack of sidewalk or student's health has a bearing on the student's safety.~~
- 3.4. Bus stops are limited, where feasible, so that students from several homes can meet safely at a central point for group pickup. **Pupils in grades kindergarten through eight may be required to walk up to one-half mile to a designated bus stop. Students in grade nine through 12, if offered transportation, may have to walk farther to a designated pickup point.**
- 4.5. Emergency evacuation drills, supervised by someone other than the bus driver, are conducted ~~regularly throughout the school year~~ **annually** to thoroughly acquaint student riders with procedures in emergency conditions.
- 5.6. All vehicles used to transport students are maintained in such condition as to provide safe and efficient transportation service with a minimum delay and disruption of service due to mechanical or equipment failure.
- 6.7. Students in kindergarten through third grade are given instruction on school bus safety and behavior within the first two weeks of the school year. Regularly transported students in grade four through 12 are instructed in safety procedures in accordance with State law.
- 7.8. Passengers participating in non-routine use of school buses will receive safety instructions at the beginning of the bus trip.

[Adoption date:]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3327.09; 3327.10
4511.75; 4511.76; 4511.761; 4511.762 through 4511.78
OAC 3301-51-10
3301-83

CROSS REFS.: EB, Safety Program
EEA, Student Transportation Services
EEAD, Non-Routine Use of School Buses
GBQ, Criminal Records Check
IICA, Field Trips

NOTE: Districts are encouraged to develop for distribution a drivers' manual that includes by reference the Ohio pre-service driver training manual, the Ohio pupil transportation rules and regulations, as well as the local requirements of the transportation program, including the drivers' responsibilities for the care and maintenance of buses and other school vehicles.

THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY