

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

I. INTRODUCTION

All buses and other vehicles owned and operated by this district shall be inspected for safety by the assigned driver and transportation supervisor on a regular basis which should be no less than a quarterly basis.

The transportation director shall develop and maintain a safety inspection record which shall be filled out, and signed by the individual who conducts the inspection. All defects noted by local or state inspectors shall be remedied immediately.

All accidents, regardless of the damage involved, must be reported to the transportation supervisor and the transportation director. Any part of the vehicle rubbing, scraping, or touching (other than bushes, overhanging limbs, etc.) other objects or vehicles in such manner as to cause damage to the vehicle constitutes an accident.

All student transportation management shall be in accordance with state statutes.

School transportation services will be provided for students to and from school and for transporting students to and from curricular and extracurricular activities sponsored by the district, transporting from one school or facility to another, and school-sponsored field trips that are extensions of classroom learning experiences. Transportation will be provided for homeless students to and from the student's school of origin. School of origin means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled. These services shall be provided throughout the regularly scheduled year and during the regular school day as determined by the board.

II. STUDENT CONDUCT

School buses carrying students will be considered extensions of the school experience. All students using school transportation will abide by the code of conduct posted in each school bus. Violations of such code, as well as other conduct which is improper or which jeopardizes the safety of self or others, will be reported by the school bus driver to the supervisor. The transportation supervisor will, as soon as possible, inform the appropriate building principal of such occurrence. Violators may be denied use of transportation for a period of time as deemed proper by the building principal and/or transportation supervisor.

III. BUS DRIVERS

The building principal or designee shall, on a need to know basis, ensure transportation officials and drivers receive notification of students having special medical or behavioral protocols identified in student records.

Information and/or training, including confidentiality requirements, will be provided to drivers, as appropriate.

The school bus driver will be responsible for the school bus at all times from departure until return. The driver will not participate in any activities that might impair his/her driving abilities.

The district will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to school bus transportation.

IV. BUS AND DRIVER SAFETY

All buses are to be inspected on a quarterly basis and are to be well-maintained and clean. Each bus driver has a valid bus driver certificate and a commercial driver's license and operates the bus according to all specified safety procedures. The school district has on file a yearly motor vehicle report on each driver and evidence that each driver has received two hours of in-service training per semester.

Bus schedules ensure arrival of all buses at their designated school sites prior to the start of the instructional day. Emergency bus evacuation drills are conducted at least two times each year.

V. TITLE I FUNDS

Transportation will be provided to a student of a school receiving Title I funds to attend a district school out of the student's attendance area because his/her home school has been identified as in need of improvement, corrective action or restructuring. Such transfers will be permitted and transportation provided only to a safe school that has not been identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring. The obligation of the district to provide for transportation will terminate at the end of the school year if the school from which the student transferred is no longer in school improvement.

In the event all other district schools a student may transfer to have also been identified as in need of improvement, corrective action or restructuring or there is no other district school to which the student may transfer, the district shall, to the extent practicable, establish a cooperative agreement with other districts in the area for a transfer.

Transportation for students who transfer for such purposes will be provided for in accordance with the agreement.

If there are no district schools to which students can transfer because: (1) all schools at a grade level are in school improvement; (2) there is only one school in the district; or (3) the rural or isolated nature of the school district prevents choice, the district must notify the parents that the student's school has been identified for school improvement but that no choices are currently available. Districts should consult with their attorney.

VI. CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The superintendent or designee in federal programs shall coordinate activities relating to the District's provision of services to children placed in foster care, including transportation services, when the District is notified by the Department of Human Services in writing that has foster care students in need of services.

The District will collaborate with the Department of Human Services when transportation is required to maintain children placed in foster care in a school of origin outside their usual attendance area or District when it is in the best interest of the student.

The superintendent or designee, will collaborate with appropriate officials of the Department of Human Services, and officials from related districts/agencies to consider how such transportation is to be promptly arranged and funded in a cost effective manner.

If there are additional costs to be incurred in providing transportation to maintain a student in the school of origin, the District will provide transportation to such school if:

- The Department of Human Services agrees to reimburse the District for the cost of such transportation;
- The District agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or
- The District and the Department of Human Services agree to share the cost of such transportation.

The district will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to school bus transportation.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi; Mississippi School Boards Association

LEGAL REF: Section 37-41-1 (g), 37-41-47 to 37-41-57; Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standard 29

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