

School Bus Safety Program

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

Students 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.

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 and meets the minimum standards and specifications of law. 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, in consultation with the transportation contractor, may alter bus schedules or cancel bus services. The superintendent or his or her designee will advise local radio stations and other media sources of any changes in bus schedules or services.

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

The Board will study all accidents involving buses that serve the district and will make recommendations to avoid similar accidents.

END OF POLICY

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.

Legal References:

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