

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.

Violation of this policy or any other board policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or dismissal of the driver.

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 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. operate the vehicle in accordance with all applicable motor vehicle and traffic laws;
3. use reasonable judgment in the operation of the vehicle;
4. promptly report to the principal or other designated official any defect or other concern regarding the safety of the vehicle operated by the school system;
5. report to the principal or other designated official by the next working day any moving violation citations received while operating any motor vehicle, whether on or off duty; and
6. carry insurance if operating a privately owned vehicle.

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, TRAN-010; *North Carolina School Bus Driver Handout*, Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, available at <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/license-id/driver-licenses/new-drivers/Documents/school-bus-handbook.pdf>

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Student Transportation Services Policies (6300 series), Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators (policy 7241), Insurance (policy 8340)

Adopted: March 14, 2016

Revised: May 24, 2017 (legal references only); December 13, 2018; April 2, 2020