

NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONSDriver Training and Responsibility

Bus operators shall observe all state statutes and administrative rules governing traffic safety and school bus operation. The district shall, at the beginning of each school year, provide each driver with a copy of the School Bus Driver Handbook (SPI), any additional laws and/or rules which have been recently enacted and which apply to school bus drivers, and the district's written rules for student conduct on buses.

Each bus driver must have a Type 1 school bus driver's authorization issued by the superintendent of public instruction, a passenger endorsement and either a Class B or C commercial driver's license. The bus driver shall also hold a valid and current first aid card. An air braked endorsement is required for a driver who is assigned to a bus with air brakes. A bus driver is required to pass a Department of Transportation and a Superintendent of Public Instruction physical examination every two years.

Any district employee, other than a bus driver, who transports students for school activities in a district or private vehicle must have a Type 2 school activities driver's authorization issued by the superintendent of public instruction, a valid driver's license issued by the state department of licensing and a valid and current first aid card. Holders of Type 2 authorizations may only operate vehicles with seating capacity of ten or less and may not drive students on scheduled routes between home and school. Authorization is not necessary for persons transporting students in an emergency affecting health and/or safety.

When a teacher, coach or other certificated staff member is assigned to accompany students on a bus, such person shall be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students in his/her charge. The bus driver shall have final authority and responsibility. When the district utilizes charter buses or excursion carriers, the driver shall not have unsupervised access to children and children shall be supervised by a responsible employee of the district. Every contract between a school district and charter bus or excursion carrier shall contain a carrier profile from the Washington utilities and transportation commission.

Legal References: RCW 28A.160.210

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through 030

School bus drivers, training and qualifications--Rules and regulations for Uniform Commercial Drivers Act School Transportation General operating regulations Rules for school bus drivers; Rules for students riding school buses

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Driver Training and Responsibility

The district needs to provide drivers with rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of a school bus. As the policy indicates, drivers should review the School Bus Driver Handbook (SPI). The driver should also understand the district's procedures regarding student conduct on the bus and how to deal with emergency situations (e.g., mechanical failures that occur on the route when students are on the bus).

Radio contact with the transportation department can be very helpful in the event of mechanical failure or dealing with student conduct problems.