

OFFICE OF THE SOLANO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Series 3000 – BUSINESS AND NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Policy 3542

School Bus Drivers

Authority

Students transported in a school bus or in a student activity bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus. The driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the students while they are on the bus or being escorted across a street, highway or road.

A bus driver shall have the authority to discontinue the operation of a school bus whenever s/he determines that it is unsafe to continue.

Administrative regulations related to bus driver authority shall be made available to parents/guardians, students, teachers, and other interested parties.

Qualifications, Training and Monitoring

All drivers employed to operate school buses or student activity buses shall possess, at a minimum, both of the following documents issued by the state Department of Motor Vehicles:

1. A valid driver's license for the appropriate class of vehicle to be driven
2. A certificate which permits the driver to operate either school buses or student activity buses, as applicable

The Solano County Superintendent of Schools or designee may use an electronic fingerprinting system, managed by the California Department of Justice, to fingerprint an applicant for an original certificate to drive a school bus or student activity bus.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that school bus drivers receive training which includes:

1. First aid practices
2. The proper actions to be taken in the event that a school bus is hijacked
3. The proper installation of mobile seating devices in the bus securement systems

School bus drivers shall be subject to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) policy and the requirements of federal law.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Department of Motor Vehicles within five days whenever any school bus driver has tested positive for drugs or alcohol, is dismissed for a cause related to student transportation safety, or whenever a driver so dismissed has been reinstated.

Responsibilities

The school bus driver's primary responsibility is to safely transport students to and from school and school activities. S/he shall follow procedures contained in SCOE's transportation safety plan.

The driver shall not require any student to leave the bus en route between home and school or other destinations.

The driver shall stop to load or unload students only at school bus stops designated by the Superintendent or designee, or authorized by the Superintendent or designee for school activity trips.

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The driver shall activate the amber warning light system, flashing red signal lights and stop arm signal and shall escort students in accordance with Vehicle Code 22112.

The driver shall immediately report all school bus accidents to the California Highway Patrol, the Superintendent or designee, and the driver's employer.

The driver also shall report the following to the Superintendent or designee:

1. Recurring and serious student misbehavior
2. Parental and student complaints
3. Traffic violations
4. Consistently late school dismissals which cause transportation delays
5. Overload runs
6. Mechanical or other problems with buses and equipment

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 39830-39842 School buses
- 40080-40090.5 Training required to obtain or renew bus driver certificate
- 45125.1 Criminal background checks for contractors
- 56195.8 Training in installation of mobile seating devices

PENAL CODE

- 241.3 Assault against school bus driver
- 243.3 Battery against school bus driver

VEHICLE CODE

- 1808.8 Dismissal for safety-related cause
- 2570-2575 Transportation of students
- 12517-12517.4 Certification requirements
- 12522 First aid training for school bus drivers
- 13376 Driver certificates; revocation or suspension; sex offense prosecution
- 22112 School bus signals; roadway crossings
- 25257 School bus; flashing light signal system
- 25257.2 School bus used for transportation of developmentally disabled person
- 34501.6 School buses; reduced visibility
- 34508.5 Investigation of accidents

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 14103 Authority of the driver
- 14104 School bus driver instructor

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

- 1200-1228 General provisions, school bus regulations

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 49

- 571.222 Federal motor vehicle safety standard #222

Policy Cross-Reference:

- 3516.5 Emergency Schedules
- 3540 Transportation
- 3541 Transportation Routes and Services

Policy 3542 (Continued)

Policy Cross-Reference: (Continued)

- 3541.2 Transportation for Students with Disabilities
- 3543 Transportation Safety and Emergencies
- 4020.1 Controlled Substances and Alcohol – Drivers
- 4112.4 Health Examinations
- 4200 Classified Personnel
- 4211 Recruitment and Selection
- 4212.5 Criminal Record Check
- 4215 Evaluation/Supervision
- 4218 Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
- 4231 Staff Development
- 5131.1 Bus Conduct
- 6153 School-Sponsored Trips