

Bus Routes, Stops, and Non-Transportation Zones During Health Emergency

Each year, no later than the regular Board meeting in August, the Superintendent or his or her designee shall present their recommendation for bus routes, school safety busing zones, and non-transportation zones to the Board of Trustees. The Board shall consider student health and safety in considering the recommendations of the Superintendent or designee.

Definitions

“Safety Busing Zone” shall mean the transportation of a student who lives less than 1½ miles from school when, in the judgment of the Board, the age, health, or safety of the student warrants such action. See Policy 8110 Safety Busing.

“Non-Transportation Zone” shall mean an area of the District designated by the Board which is not served by District transportation because of scarcity of students or remoteness, or because the condition of roads makes such service impractical.

Establishing Bus Routes

In order to operate the transportation system as safely and efficiently as possible, the following factors shall be considered in establishing bus routes:

1. School bus routes shall be established with due consideration of the sum total of local conditions affecting the safety, economic soundness, and convenience of its operation including road conditions, condition of bridges and culverts, hazardous crossings, presence of railroad tracks and arterial highways, extreme weather conditions and variations, length of route, number of families and children to be serviced, availability of turn-around points, capacity of bus, and other related factors. Further, the Board of Trustees shall consider the criteria set out in its measuring and scoring instrument. See Policy 8110 Safety Busing, Exhibit 1.
2. School bus drivers are encouraged to make recommendations in regard to establishing or changing routes.
3. Parents should be referred to the Superintendent or designee for any request of change in routes, stops, or schedules.
4. At least once each year, the transportation supervisor or the District’s school bus driver trainer shall evaluate each route for the purpose of assessing the safety of routes and bus stops. Documentation of the route evaluation shall be retained by the District.

Bus Stops

Buses should stop only at designated places approved by school authorities. Exceptions should be made only in cases of emergency and inclement weather conditions. Bus stops shall be chosen with safety and protection of the health of the student in mind.

School loading and unloading zones are to be established and marked to provide safe and orderly loading and unloading of students. The principal of each building is responsible for the conduct of students waiting in loading zones.

Students should adhere to the health and safety guidelines outlined by the District while waiting to load and unload the school bus.

The building administrator will provide a plan for daily supervision of loading and unloading areas at or near schools during unloading and loading of school buses. School districts shall provide an adequate number of supervisors for the size of the loading area and number of students present and ensure close, continuous, and interactive supervision whenever students and/or buses are present in the loading area.

The building principal will establish a staff/employee duty which includes weekly rotation of teams of two (2) staff members to provide supervision of loading and unloading areas before and after school each day. (A minimum of at least one staff member is always required to be on bus supervision duty).

Delay in Schedule

The schedule for pickup and delivery of children shall be followed as accurately as possible. The driver is to notify the administration of a delay in schedule. The administration will notify parents on routes and radio stations, if necessary.

Responsibilities - Pupils

Pupils must realize that safety is based on group conduct. Talk should be in conversational tones at all times. There should be no shouting or loud talking which may distract the bus driver. There should be no shouting at passersby. Pupils should instantly obey any command or suggestions from the driver and/or his or her assistants. During a time of a federal, state, or local emergency, pupils will adhere to physical distancing or other safety measures while riding on District-provided transportation.

A pupil may be denied transportation upon a showing of good cause. The reason for the denial of transportation services shall be provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing.

Responsibilities - Parents

The interest and assistance of each parent is a valued asset to the transportation program. Parents' efforts towards making each bus trip a safe and pleasant experience are requested and appreciated. The following suggestions are only three of the many ways parents can assist:

1. Ensure that students are at the bus stop in sufficient time to efficiently meet the bus;
2. Properly prepare children for weather conditions; and
3. Encourage school bus safety at home. Caution children regarding safe behavior and conduct while riding on the school bus.

Safety

The Superintendent shall develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills which comply with State law and Federal Highway Safety Guideline 17 for student conduct while riding on buses.

If the bus and driver are present, the driver is responsible for the safety of his or her passengers, particularly for those who must cross a roadway prior to loading or after leaving the bus. Except in emergencies, no bus driver shall order or allow a student to board or disembark at other than his or her assigned stop unless so authorized by the Superintendent. In order to assure the safety of all, the bus driver may hold students accountable for their conduct during the course of transportation and may recommend corrective action against a student. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from using corporal punishment.

Further, the Board shall consider the criteria set out in its measuring and scoring instrument which, by this reference, is incorporated and attached to this policy.

The bus driver is responsible for the use of the warning and stop signaling systems and the consequent protection of his or her passengers. Failure to use the system constitutes negligence on the part of the driver.

Inclement Weather

The Board recognizes the unpredictability and resulting dangers associated with the weather in Idaho. To achieve the maximum safety for children and efficiency of operation, the Superintendent is empowered to make decisions as to the emergency operation of buses, the cancellation of bus routes, and the closing of schools in accordance with his or her best judgment. The Board may develop guidelines in cooperation with the Superintendent to assist him or her in making such decisions.

Cross Reference: § 8110 Safety Busing

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-1501 Transportation Authorized
I.C. § 33-1502 Bus Routes—Non-Transportation Zones
I.C. § 49-1422 Overtaking and Passing a School Bus
I.C. § 33-1511 Loading and Unloading School Buses

Other References: Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations Idaho Department of
Education;
Idaho’s School Bus Driver Training Classroom Curriculum

Policy History:

Adopted on: 1/9/24

Revised on:

Reviewed on: