

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

OPERATIONS

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Bus Driver/Bus Aide Responsibility

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8630 BUS DRIVER/BUS AIDE RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of Education requires all school bus drivers and bus aides employed by the district or employed by a contracted school bus company to be reliable persons of good moral character who possess the qualifications ~~and communication skills~~ necessary to perform the duties of the position. Anyone driving a school bus must meet all requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17, 18, 19.1, and 20 and all New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) rules governing school bus drivers. All school bus drivers must possess the appropriate license and endorsement(s) to drive a school bus in the State of New Jersey and is/are subject to all the Federal and State requirements to maintain the appropriate license.

School bus drivers and bus aides shall meet criminal history background check requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq. and tuberculin testing requirements pursuant to applicable State statutes and administrative codes. School bus drivers and bus aides shall be considered under the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to be school officials who have a legitimate educational interest to parts of a student's record relating to transportation, without parental consent, as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:27-12.1(j)1. School bus drivers and bus aides shall receive training in the use of a student's educational records and in their responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student and his or her records. In addition, permanent and substitute school bus drivers and bus aides shall be trained for the functions of their positions and in a safety education program as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2(b) and (c).

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-28, school bus drivers must visually inspect the school bus they are assigned at the end of the transportation route to determine that no student has been left on the bus.

The school bus driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times and shall be responsible for maintaining order. The school bus driver will never exclude a student from the school bus, but if unable to manage a student, the school bus driver will report the unmanageable student to the Principal or designee of the school in which the student attends

~~The school bus driver is responsible for the safety of his or her pupils and shall rigorously observe all motor vehicle laws and regulations and State Board of Education rules in the operation of his or her school bus. The school bus driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times and shall be responsible for maintaining order. The school bus driver will never exclude a pupil from the school bus, but if unable to manage a pupil, the school bus driver will report the unmanageable pupil to the Principal or designee of the school in which the pupil attends.~~

The Principal or designee, upon such report from the school bus driver, may assign appropriate discipline. The discipline, which may include excluding the student/pupil from the bus, and the student's/pupil's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall provide for the student's/pupil's transportation to and from school during the time of exclusion.

In the event of an emergency, ~~the school bus drivers~~ shall follow procedures established by this Board. School administrators shall organize and conduct emergency exit drills at least twice within the school year for all students who are transported to and from school. All other students shall receive school bus evacuation instruction at least once per year. School bus drivers and bus aides shall participate in the emergency exit drills, which shall be conducted on school property and shall be supervised by the Principal or person assigned to act in a supervisory capacity. Drills shall be documented in the minutes of the Board of Education at the first meeting following completion of the emergency exit drill in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2(d).

The school bus driver will immediately inform the Principal of the receiving school and the School Business Administrator or designee of the district providing the transportation following an accident that involves injury, death or property damage. The school bus driver must also complete and file within ten days of the accident the ~~a~~ Preliminary School Bus Accident Report prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. In addition to the Preliminary School Bus Accident Report, the driver of a school bus involved in an accident resulting in injury or death of any person, or damage to property of any one person in excess of \$500, shall complete and file within ten days after such accident a motor vehicle accident report in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:4-130, and provide the Report to the Principal of the receiving school by the end of the next working day. The Principal of the receiving school shall retain a copy of the Report and forward other copies of it as prescribed by the NJ Department of Education.

~~While operating a school bus, the~~ Sschool bus drivers ~~are is~~ prohibited from using a cellular or other wireless telephone, while operating a school bus unless. ~~When at~~ the school bus is parked in a safe area off a roadway highway or in an emergency situation, ~~a cellular or other wireless telephone may be used by the school bus driver only for school-related business or in an emergency situation. A driver who violates this policy provision is subject to fines~~ pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25. A school bus driver who violates this policy provision is subject to fines pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25.

School bus drivers are responsible for the safety of their students and shall rigorously observe all motor vehicle laws and regulations and State Board of Education rules in the operation of their school bus.

~~N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2
N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 et seq.; 6A:27-12.1 et seq.~~

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2; 18A:39-28
N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 et seq.; 6A:27-12.1 et seq.

Cross References: 4125, 4219, 8600

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