# STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

*Code* **EEA** *Adopted:* **12/14/2023**

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The superintendent is responsible for the overall bus transportation in the school district.

The district will provide transportation to all eligible students within the boundaries provided for by federal and state funds and State Board of Education regulations. The district will adhere to all applicable rules and regulations relative to the routing and operation of the transportation system.

In accordance with federal law, the district will also provide transportation to homeless students to and from their school of origin, a student who is a victim of a violent criminal offense occurring in or on the grounds of the school the student attends, or a student transferring from a school identified as persistently dangerous for three consecutive years.

Students who travel to and from school on school buses or who make trips in connection with school sponsored activities are under school supervision.

**State-Owned/Leased Vehicles**

Bus transportation will be under the control and management of the superintendent and the district bus supervisor in accordance with state statutes. The buses are maintained and repaired daily by the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Transportation.

No bus will stop at a school other than the school or schools to which it has been assigned. All buses will stop only at designated points on their approved routes and each one will pick up only the students assigned to or enrolled in the school or schools to which it has been assigned.

Safety on buses is of primary importance and the district will adhere to state laws and regulations that govern bus operations. State law requires that all school bus drivers take and pass an intensive three-day period of instruction conducted by specially trained instructors.

No bus will operate in excess of 45 miles per hour, except when traveling on a highway with a posted speed limit above 55 miles per hour, or when traveling on an interstate or state primary highway to and from special events with written authorization from the SCDE. In no event will buses exceed 55 miles per hour.

Any field trip or other school activity necessitating use of buses must be planned so that there is no interference with regular operation of buses transporting students to and from school. Applications for use of buses will be given to the district bus supervisor at least 48 hours ahead of time so that arrangements may be made.

**District-Owned/Leased Buses**

The activity buses will be used by the school and school-connected organizations for school connected activities. Use of the buses (including number of passengers) and certified bus drivers must be approved by the school administrator designated by the superintendent. The bus must be kept insured and checked before and after every trip.

It is the responsibility of the school to secure and reimburse the district for a certified bus driver for all field trips.

Extracurricular clubs and student organizations **may** pay for mileage and furnish a properly certified driver for all field trips.

It is the duty and responsibility of the person in charge of the particular trip to see that students in his/her care have ways to get home, especially at night.

**Bus Scheduling and Routing**

The district will establish bus routes throughout the district to best accommodate the majority of students eligible for school bus transportation to their particular schools. The transportation supervisor will supervise scheduling.

As specified by the state, all bus stops must be no closer than two-tenths of a mile apart. During inclement weather, the bus may make additional stops.

**Adults on School Buses**

Parents/Legal guardians and other adult school volunteers or staff may ride school buses under the following conditions:

- if a space is available (as determined by director of transportation)
- in conjunction with special programs sponsored by the district
- adults board (and get off) buses along the regularly scheduled route at regularly scheduled stops

The district will not re-route school buses to accommodate the pickup of adults authorized to ride buses under this policy.

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*Adopted 12/14/2023*

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Legal References:

A. United States Code of Laws, as amended:
   1. McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 11431, *et seq*.

B. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
   1. Section 59-67-410, *et seq*. - School bus transportation.
   2. Section 59-67-545 - Authorizes certain adults to ride school buses.

C. S.C. State Board of Education Regulations:
   1. R43-80 - Operation of public student transportation services.
   2. South Carolina School Bus Driver Training Handbook (2023).

*Administrative Rule*
*Policy EEA*

# STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

*Code* **EEA-R** *Issued* **12/14/2023**

To reduce the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends that districts implement safety measures while transporting students on buses. The board authorizes the superintendent or his/her designee to establish procedures for district transportation as well as personal transportation of students.

Students who are ill, demonstrating symptoms of illness, or have been in contact with an individual experiencing symptoms, will not be transported to school.

**Parent/Legal Guardian Pick-Up and Drop-Off**

Parents/Legal guardians will remain in their cars during drop-off or pick-up of students at the designated locations.

When dropped off, students will go directly to their assigned area. Similarly, at the end of the day, students will follow procedures to exit the building and wait for pick-up.

Students will not congregate outside of the building before or after school without maintaining social distancing measures. Staff members will be assigned to the designated drop-off and pickup areas to make certain that the appropriate protocols are being followed.

**Student Drivers**

After parking, students will go directly to their assigned area. Similarly, at the end of the day, students will follow procedures to exit the building.

Students will not congregate outside of the building before or after school. Safety protocols will be followed at all times when students arrive and leave the school grounds.

**Bus Transportation**

*Bus stops*

Parents/Legal guardians should ensure that students are following safety protocols while at the bus stop. Students will either remain in parent/legal guardian vehicles or maintain a six-foot distance from other students, to the safest extent possible, until the bus arrives.

Students will not congregate after being returned to the bus stop. Students should immediately be picked up or walk to their respective homes.

*Riding the bus*

Students and staff members may (unless required) wear a face covering while on district transportation unless an exception has been authorized.

Students may be assigned seating and will be spaced apart as practicable in accordance with the recommendations of health officials.

When circumstances permit, windows will be opened to enhance the flow of fresh air. Otherwise, the driver will increase outdoor circulation using the vehicle's ventilation system.

*Cleaning*

The bus driver will clean and disinfect the bus, especially seating and commonly touched surfaces, after each bus route.

**Discipline**

Failure to comply with this rule by a staff member or student may result in disciplinary action in accordance with district policy and codes of conduct, as applicable.

This rule is intended to be effective until further notice and to align with district policies. To the extent it does not align, it will supersede others in accordance with applicable laws and regulations in effect at the time. For clarification on potential conflicts between policies, the interpretation of the superintendent or his/her designee is final.

The board authorizes the superintendent or his/her designee to amend these requirements as necessary to meet health and safety guidelines.