Policy

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

*Code* **EEA** *Issued* **DRAFT/19**

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 Vehicles

Bus transportation will be under the control and management of the superintendent and the district bus supervisor in accordance with state statutes.

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 and practice driving conducted by specially trained instructors.

The buses are maintained and repaired daily by the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Transportation.

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 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.

*(Option: Extracurricular clubs and student organizations must 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 at least two-tenths of a mile apart. A bus may depart from its established route only in order to pick up a student who lives more than one-half mile beyond the route. 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.

Adopted ^

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 school transportation services.