

STUDENT SAFETY WALKING, BIKING AND RIDING BUSES

A comprehensive school trip safety program will address school walk routes, bus safety and route plans, vehicle access to the school, circulation and parking at the school, pedestrian circulation on and around the school campus and safety education and enforcement.

Bus Safety

The superintendent or designee will develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills and for student conduct while riding on buses. The procedures for bus safety will include rules restricting bus access to students and those persons authorized by the superintendent or designee to ride the bus to and from any school activity.

The bus driver is responsible for the safety of his/her passengers, particularly for those who cross a roadway after leaving the bus. No bus driver will order or allow a student to disembark at other than his/her customary boarding or stopping place unless so authorized by the superintendent or designee. In order to ensure 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. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from allowing anyone to board the bus who is not a student or a person authorized to ride the bus by the superintendent or designee.

Emergencies

In the event of an accident or other emergency, the bus driver will follow the emergency procedures in accordance with the School Bus Driver Handbook, produced by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). A copy of the emergency procedures will be located in each bus. To ensure the success of such emergency procedures, each bus driver will conduct an emergency evacuation drill within the first six weeks of each school semester. The district will conduct such other drills and procedures as may be necessary.

Student Conduct On Buses

The superintendent or designee will establish written rules of conduct for students riding school buses. Such rules will include as a minimum the requirements of [WAC 392-145-035](#) and will be reviewed annually by the superintendent or designee and revised if necessary. If the rules are substantially revised, they will be submitted to the board for approval.

At the beginning of each school year, a copy of the rules of conduct for students riding buses will be provided to each student who is scheduled to ride a school bus. The classroom teacher and/or bus driver will review the rules with the students at or near the beginning of each school year. A copy of the rules will be available upon request at the district office.

Safe Routes To School Plan

Pursuant to [WAC 392-151-025](#), all elementary schools that have students who walk to and from school are required to develop a suggested route plan. These route plans shall limit the number of school crossings so that students move through the crossings in groups. The walking route plan shall be distributed to all students.

The plan will recommend the best routes for students walking to and from school, as well as the best routes to and from school bus stops. In developing the plan, the district will consider, at a minimum, the following:

1. traffic patterns;
2. existing traffic controls;
3. existing school patrols;
4. limits on the number of school crossings so that students have to move through the crossings in groups;

The superintendent or designee will distribute the plan to all students

Cross References:	Board Policy 3241	Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishment
	Board Policy 6700	Nutrition and Physical Fitness
Legal References:	RCW 28A.600.010	Government of schools, pupils, employees, rules and regulations for — Due process guarantee — Enforcement
	RCW 46.61.385	School patrol — Appointment — Authority — Finance — Insurance.
	WAC 392-144	School Bus Driver Qualifications
	WAC 392-145	Transportation — Operation rules
	WAC 392-145-021	General operating regulations
	WAC 392-145-016	Rules for students riding school buses
	WAC 392-151-025	Route Plans
Management Resources:	2014 - June Issue 2023 – July Issue	

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Steilacoom Historical School District No. 1
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