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CONVEYANCE OF STUDENTS (AP)

BACKGROUND

The Board of Education is committed to providing safe, caring and inclusive learning environments and school sponsored activities. To this end, the Board takes responsibility for communicating such expectations to staff, students and parents on a regular basis. Such expectations are clearly outlined in each school's Code of Conduct which governs student behaviour at school, school sponsored activities and events, and while in transit.

The Board acknowledges its commitment to transport pupils by District-owned or contracted vehicles or regularly scheduled runs and for authorized curricular and extra-curricular activities. The following Administrative Procedure aligns with Policy 320 Conveyance of Students.

DEFINITIONS

SCHOOL BUS is defined by directive and regulations issued by the Motor Vehicle Department.

SUPERVISOR is a person who exercises School Board authority in accordance with approved board policies or directives for a specific activity. (Appendix I Guidelines)

CURRICULAR OR EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY is an activity that is provided or organized by, supervised by, or sponsored by an authority of a school.

PROCEDURAL REGULATIONS

1.0 SCHEDULED SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

(District-owned or contract)

1.1 Vehicles used must have valid school bus permits issued by the Motor Vehicle Department.

1.2 Current passenger lists should be maintained.

1.3 A minimum of \$10,000,000. Liability Insurance coverage should be maintained for each owned vehicle. (Ministry of Education Insurance Program provides liability coverage of \$49,000,000 in excess of the \$10,000,000 on district-owned vehicles).

1.4 Independent school bus operators must obtain \$10,000,000. Liability coverage (Ministry of Education Insurance Program maintains \$50,000,000. non-owned Automobile insurance to protect Boards).

1.5 Vehicles will be operated on approved routes only. Where spare seating permits, pupils may be transported within the walk limits along regular bus routes.



2.0 TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

2.1 Transportation Assistance allowance may be paid in accordance with the School Act Regulations where the Board considers there is not a sufficient number of pupils to establish a bus route. The Board will establish the daily rate and review periodically.

2.2 Special assistance may be approved by the Board to meet emergent situations. Such approvals shall be for a specified time only and shall undergo annual review.

2.3 When the Board chooses to make transportation assistance payments for regular home to school travel in lieu of providing school bus service, the full responsibility for safe transportation and insurance coverage rests with the vehicle owner.

2.4 The Application for Transportation Assistance Form, included as Appendix III is to be completed for each school year.

2.5 At the end of each school month the school will complete a Transportation Assistance Allowance Requisition form and forward it to the Secretary-Treasurer for payment.

2.6 The Board's objective is to pay the Transportation Allowance on a net 15 day basis.

3.0 BOARD AUTHORIZED CURRICULAR OR EXTRA CURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION

(District-owned, leased, or contract vehicles)

3.1 The supervisor shall assume responsibility for the arrangements and supervision of the travel.

3.2 Insurance coverage for contract buses must not only meet the minimum as specified by the Motor Carrier Commission, but also must satisfy the level of coverage as District-owned vehicles.

3.1 Drivers of school buses must possess:

- i) a valid Class 2 driver's license where the seating capacity exceeds 10, including the driver;
- ii) a valid Restricted Class 4 driver's license where the seating capacity is not more than 10, including the driver.
- iii) a valid Unrestricted Class 4 driver's license where the seating capacity is not more than 25, including the driver.

4.0 SCHOOL AUTHORIZED CURRICULAR OR EXTRA CURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION

(Private Vehicles/Volunteer Drivers)

4.1 While the use of volunteer private vehicles is not encouraged, Principals may approve the use as outlined below.

- 4.1.1 An identified supervisor shall ensure that any special safety requirements connected with the trip are met.



4.1.2 The private motor vehicle used must meet all current requirements of the Motor Vehicle Act and shall carry a minimum third party liability of \$1,000,000.

4.1.3 The driver must possess a valid driver's license appropriate for the vehicle.

4.2 Volunteers are not to be used for driving school buses or passenger vans carrying more than 24 passengers.

4.3 The vehicle must have a school bus designation if the seating capacity is 10 or more people and the driver must have an unrestricted Class 4 license.

4.4 Any driver other than a parent/guardian must submit a criminal record check to the board office.

4.5 Verify number of operating seat belts equals the number of passengers.

4.6 A School District employee is entitled to drive students 6 times per month. Anything over 6 times per month requires additional "Business Use Insurance".

4.7 A booster seat must be used when transporting students who are over 18kg/40lbs AND under 4'9".

4.8 If the vehicle to be used is equipped with an air bag on the passenger side, the vehicle is to be operated in compliance with air bag regulations.

4.9 The school must have on file a completed Volunteer Driver application form as illustrated in Appendix II.

5.0 STUDENT CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

5.1 A student who contravenes a school or bus code of conduct may be suspended from school bus service. The student is subject to these codes of conduct in going to and returning from school

5.2 The Principal shall delegate to the bus driver authority for supervising students on the buses and for initiating appropriate disciplinary measures.

5.3 If a student contravenes a school or bus code of conduct while on a bus he/she may be suspended from school bus service:

- i) For contravening school or bus code of conduct while on a bus, a one (1) day suspension from riding on any school bus may be given by the driver
- ii) For each suspension, the driver must immediately initiate, in writing, a Notice of Suspension (Appendix IV)
- iii) The Notice of Suspension must be given to the student, with copies to the principal and the transportation supervisor, within twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension.

5.4 For serious or repeated violations of the School Bus Code of Conduct, the bus driver shall consult with the appropriate school administrator for further disciplinary action. Such action may include additional bus suspension or consequences deemed appropriate by the school administrator.



5.5 Students suspended from school bus service are still expected to attend school. Students who have been notified of their suspensions from riding on the bus are not to be refused entry to or expelled from a bus until the day following notice of suspension has been received by them. However, in extreme circumstances where student safety or damage to the bus is involved, the bus driver has ultimate authority to refuse any student access to the bus. Should a student be refused admission onto the bus, the driver will ensure the parents have been contacted and informed before leaving the bus stop. Bus drivers will not remove any student at any point other than his/her home place of disembarkation. The driver may, however, refuse to allow a student to board the bus at either his/her home or school.

5.6 In the event that a student is involved in willful damage to the bus, he/she may be suspended from use of the bus at least until restitution is made.

6.0 STUDENT INJURY

6.1 Where a student has been injured, the bus driver shall:

- i) Call 911, if necessary;
- ii) Notify the Transportation Team Lead;
- iii) Complete a student injury report.

The Transportation Team Lead shall:

- i) notify the parent;
- ii) notify the principal;
- iii) notify the Director of Operations;
- iv) notify the Superintendent of Schools or designate.

7.0 VEHICLE ACCIDENT

7.1 Where a district vehicle has been involved in an accident, the bus driver shall:

- i) Check for injuries.
- ii) Call Transportation Team Lead with the accident location and report any injuries.
- iii) Secure vehicle and display warning signs.
- iv) Keep all students onboard unless it is unsafe. If a threat of fire exists, move everyone to a safe location.
- v) Administer first aid, if necessary.
- vi) Account for all students. Record extent of all injuries.
- vii) Complete necessary incident report(s)/form(s)



8.0 EMERGENCY DISASTER PROCEDURES

8.1 In the event of a tsunami or tsunami warning, the bus driver shall:

- i) if in garage, remain in the garage and await instructions from the Transportation Team Lead;
- ii) if on the road, receive information regarding tsunami by radio and proceed on normal routes if passage is declared safe. If low lying routes are declared closed or deemed impassable, deliver passengers to the nearest high ground school and report to the Transportation Team Lead;

8.2 In the event of an earthquake, the bus driver shall:

- i) if in garage, remain in the garage and await instructions from the Transportation Team Lead;
- ii) if on the road, pull off to an open area, instruct children to remain in seats and cover up; and wait for the tremor to subside;
- iii) when tremor ceases, radio for information and if possible, proceed on normal route. If the route is closed or deemed impassable, proceed to the nearest high ground school and report to the Transportation Team Lead;
- iv) via onboard bus radio units, maintain radio contact with other drivers to receive and send information in the event of a power outage rendering the central dispatch system inoperable.

8.3 In the event of other disasters, the driver shall:

- i) utilize best judgement to ensure the immediate safety of passengers;
- ii) retain radio communications with other drivers and the bus garage;
- iii) cooperate with emergency disaster personnel.