

POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL

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801.1 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Students living more than four miles from their designated school attendance centers shall be entitled to transportation to and from their attendance center at the expense of the school district.

Parents of students who live where transportation by bus is impracticable or unavailable may be required to furnish transportation to and from the designated attendance center at the expense of the school district. Those parents who transport their children at the expense of the school district shall be reimbursed in accordance with state statute.

A student may be required, at the board's discretion, to meet a school vehicle without reimbursement up to three-fourths of a mile. The board may require the parent to transport their children up to two miles to connect with school bus vehicles at the expense of the school district when conditions deem it advisable. It shall be within the discretion of the board to determine such conditions.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-601 et seq.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

801.2 SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Transportation of students who require special education services shall generally be provided as for other students, when appropriate. Specialized transportation of a student to and from a special education instructional service is a function of that service and, therefore, an appropriate expenditure of special education instructional funds generated through the weighting plan.

Transportation of a student to and from a special education support service is a function of that service, and shall be specified in the individual education program. When the IEP team determines that unique transportation arrangements are required and the arrangements are specified in the IEP, the school district will provide one or more of the following transportation arrangements for instructional services and the AEA for support services:

- Transportation from the student's residence to the location of the special education or care services and back to the student's residence.
- Special assistance or adaptations in getting the student to and from and on and off the vehicle, en route to and from the special education.
- Reimbursement of the actual costs of transportation when by mutual agreement the parents provide transportation for the student to and from the special education.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1401, 1701 et seq. (1994).
34 C.F.R. Pt. 300 et seq. (1996).

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

801.3 BUS SCHEDULING AND ROUTING

School bus stops and routes will be determined by the transportation supervisor and route supervisor and will be based upon efficiency, safety, board policy and applicable state and federal laws and rules.

The superintendent will:

1. Annually review and assess school bus routes, stops and loading zones for safety, changing student population and supervision of students;
2. Advise parents of any changes in transportation policy affecting their students as early as possible and be responsive to parents' calls for assistance in seeking alternatives to busing; and
3. Work with cities, the county and other appropriate governmental agencies on a continuing basis regarding transportation issues.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

801.5 BUS DRIVER SUPERVISION

School bus drivers must pass physical examinations and meet other criteria as established by state and federal law and by the Nebraska Department of Education. Bus drivers must have a valid pupil transportation vehicle operator's permit and shall have it in their possession when transporting students. This does not apply to the operator of a small vehicle being used only for extracurricular activities.

The school district shall obtain a record of satisfactory driving as determined by board policy. It is required that a copy of the individual's driving record be on file with the district before employment as a pupil transportation vehicle operator as defined in NDE rules. The school district shall obtain and keep on file a criminal history record of driver applicants who are not certificated Nebraska teachers or administrators through the Nebraska State Patrol and local law enforcement agency before employment as a pupil transportation vehicle operator.

School bus driver selection procedures will be developed by the superintendent to ensure acceptance of drivers whose capabilities are commensurate with job responsibilities, including minimum requirements for a satisfactory driving record.

Substitute pupil transportation vehicle operators shall meet the same driver requirements and qualifications as a regular pupil transportation vehicle operator. A pupil transportation vehicle operator shall not have the authority to assign a substitute without the prior approval of any school administrator or person designated by the governing school board.

All school bus drivers are required to inform the district immediately of any change in their driving or criminal records that could affect their eligibility to maintain the student transportation vehicle operator's permit.

Pupil transportation vehicle operators shall document and report to the transportation supervisor the occurrence of any events covered by the Safe Pupil Transportation Plan that involved the pupil transportation vehicle operated by the driver, or any pupils transported in it. The superintendent shall develop such reporting procedures.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 91

Approved January 12, 2004

Reviewed June 14, 2004

Revised July 8, 2004

801.6 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The board in its discretion may provide school district transportation for extracurricular activities including, but not limited to, transporting student participants and other students to and from extracurricular events.

Students participating in extracurricular events, other than those held at the school district facilities, may be transported to the extracurricular event by school district transportation vehicles or by another means approved by the superintendent. Students attending extracurricular events, other than those held at the school district facilities may be transported to the extracurricular event by school district transportation vehicles.

Students, who are provided transportation in school district transportation vehicles for extracurricular events, shall ride both to and from the event in the school vehicle unless arrangements have been made with the activity director prior to the event. A student's parent may personally appear and request to transport the student home from a school-sponsored event in which the student traveled to the event on a school district transportation vehicle.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board as to whether the school district shall provide the transportation authorized in this policy. In making the recommendation to the board, the superintendent shall consider the financial condition of the school district, the number of students who would qualify for such transportation, and other factors the board or superintendent deem relevant.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-610 et seq.

Cross Reference: 504.19 Student Fees

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

801.8 TRANSPORTATION OF NONRESIDENT AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

The board has sole discretion to determine the method to be utilized for transporting nonresident and nonpublic students. Nonresident students may be, and resident students attending a nonprofit private school accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education, will be transported from one point to another on an established public school vehicle route at times when transportation is being provided for public school children. Nonresident and nonpublic school students shall obtain the permission of the superintendent prior to being transported by the school district. The superintendent shall determine the nearest or most easily accessible points to pick up and discharge the students.

The charge to the nonresident students shall be determined based on the students' pro rata share of the actual costs for transportation. The parents of these students shall be billed for the student's share of the actual costs of transportation. The billing shall be according to the schedule developed by the superintendent. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to determine the amount to be charged and report it to the board secretary for billing.

Continued transportation of nonresident and nonpublic school students on a public school vehicle route will be subject to resident public school students' transportation needs. The superintendent shall make a recommendation annually to the board regarding the method to be used. In making a recommendation to the board, the superintendent shall consider the number of students to be transported, the capacity of the school vehicles, the financial condition of the school district and other factors deemed relevant by the board or the superintendent.

Nonresident and nonpublic school students shall be subject to the same conduct regulations as resident public students as prescribed by board policy, and to other policies, rules, or regulations developed by the school district regarding transportation of students by the school district.

Cross Reference: 502.02 Nonresident Students

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

801.10 TRANSPORTATION IN INCLEMENT WEATHER

School district buses will not operate when weather conditions due to fog, rain, snow or other natural elements make it unsafe to do so. Because weather conditions may vary around the school district and may change quickly, the best judgment possible will be used with the information available.

The final judgment as to when conditions are unsafe to operate will be made by the superintendent. The superintendent will be assisted by the actual "on location" decisions and reports of the drivers.

When school is cancelled because of weather anywhere in the school district, all schools will be closed.

When weather conditions deteriorate during the day after school has begun, cancellation notices will be announced by commercial radio. Students will be returned to their regular drop-off sites unless weather conditions prevent it. In that case, students will be kept at or returned to school until they are picked up by the parents.

Cross Reference: 602.02 School Day

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

801.11 SCHOOL-OWNED VEHICLES

The board may approve the purchase of vehicles to be used by staff for district business, including transportation services. The superintendent will develop and maintain regulations that define the appropriate use and care of district vehicles and the responsibilities of district staff using those vehicles.

Personal use of district vehicles is prohibited except where authorized by contract.

All drivers operating district-owned vehicles shall use seat belts. Failure to do so is grounds for dismissal.

The driver of any district-owned vehicle, except school buses, is responsible for determining that the proper number of seat belts is available for the passengers. The vehicle shall not be driven until the driver and all passengers are buckled up.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

801.12 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION IN PRIVATE VEHICLES

Standing authorization shall be granted by the board to school administrators, school nurses and other student services personnel designated by the superintendent.

Personnel with standing authorization or with special permission to use their own cars for transporting students must carry liability insurance coverage in compliance with state law. A record of such coverage shall be placed on file with the appropriate administrative official.

Special permission for providing student transportation may be granted in exceptional cases by the principal to other professional staff members such as coaches, music teachers and activity sponsors. Exceptional cases shall be determined by review of the number of students traveling, relative costs, safety factors and distance providing as follows:

1. The school administrator has approved the activity;
2. A permission slip signed by the student's parent(s) has been received by the principal or his/her designee, granting permission for the student to participate in the field trip/activity and to ride in a privately-owned vehicle;
3. The employee driving the vehicle is properly licensed to drive and has provided proof of insurance. Such insurance shall meet or exceed minimum requirements as established by the state of Nebraska and as set by the district;
4. The vehicle contains an adequate number of seat restraints and the adult driver requires their use.

At least two staff members must accompany a student being transported in a private vehicle.

The district will develop procedures to implement this policy.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

801.13 USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES ON SCHOOL BUSINESS

The board discourages the use of private vehicles for district business. Staff will use district-owned vehicles whenever possible and should schedule activities and transportation far enough in advance to avoid any nonemergency use of private vehicles.

Special permission for the use of private vehicles on school business may be granted in exceptional cases by the superintendent or principal to other professional staff members. The following are also required:

1. The building principal has approved the activity;
2. The employee driving the vehicle is properly licensed to drive and has provided proof of insurance. Such insurance shall meet or exceed minimum requirements as established by the state of Nebraska and as set by the district;
3. The vehicle contains an adequate number of seat restraints and the adult driver requires their use.

No staff member will use a private vehicle for district business without approval in accordance with established district procedures. Authorization to use a private vehicle must be obtained before actual use of the vehicle. Staff traveling between schools may be granted standing authorization by the board to use their private vehicles on school-related business. Staff members who are authorized to use a private vehicle on district business will be reimbursed in an amount established by the board.

801.14 TRANSPORTATION RECORDS

The superintendent will instruct the transportation supervisor to establish a record keeping system for district transportation services. The system shall itemize usage by vehicle, activity and mileage. Maintenance, repair and depreciation costs shall also be allocated to each vehicle. The board shall review on an annual basis the summary of these records and be advised of recommendations for changes to the district's transportation system.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

801.15 USE OF VIDEO CAMERAS ON SCHOOL BUSES

The board supports the use of district owned video cameras on school buses as a means to monitor and maintain a safe environment for students and employees. The video cameras may be used on buses used for transportation to and from school, field trips, curricular events and extracurricular events. The contents of the videotapes may be used as evidence in a student disciplinary proceeding.

Student Records

The content of the videotapes is a student record subject to board policy and administrative regulations regarding confidential student records. Only those persons with a legitimate educational purpose may view the videotapes. In most instances, those individuals with a legitimate educational purpose may be the superintendent, building principal, transportation director, bus driver and special education staffing team. A videotape recorded during a school-sponsored trip, such as an athletic event, may also be accessible to the sponsor or coach of the activity. If the content of the videotape becomes the subject of a student disciplinary proceeding, it may be treated like other evidence in the proceeding.

Notice

The school district will annually provide the following notice to students and parents:

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district buses. The video cameras will be used to monitor student behavior to maintain order on the school buses to promote and maintain a safe environment. Students and parents are hereby notified that the content of the videotapes may be used in a student disciplinary proceeding. The content of the videotapes are confidential student records and will be retained with other student records. Videotapes will only be retained if necessary for use in a student disciplinary proceeding or other matter as determined necessary by the administration. Parents may request to view videotapes of their child if the videotapes are used in a disciplinary proceeding involving their child.

The following notice will also be placed on all school buses equipped with a video camera:

This bus is equipped with a video/audio monitoring system.

Review of Videotapes

The school district shall review videotapes randomly. The videotapes may be recirculated for erasure after 30 days.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

Viewing of videotapes is limited to the individuals having a legitimate educational purpose. A written log will be kept of those individuals viewing the videotapes stating the time, name of individual viewing and the date the videotape was viewed.

Video Monitoring System

Video cameras will be rotated randomly on school district buses.

Determination of how video cameras will be used and which school buses will be equipped with video equipment will be made by the superintendent in consultation with the building principals and transportation director.

Student Conduct

Students are prohibited from tampering with the video cameras on the school buses. Students found in violation of this regulation shall be disciplined in accordance with the school district policies and shall reimburse the school district for any repairs or replacement necessary as a result of the tampering.

802.1 SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM

The school district may operate a school lunch and breakfast program(s) in each attendance center. The school food program services will include hot lunches through participation in the National School Lunch Program and supplementary foods for students during the school day. Students may bring their lunches from home and purchase milk or juice and other incidental items.

School food service facilities are provided to serve students and employees when school is in session and during school-related activities.

The school food program is operated on a nonprofit basis. The revenues of the school food program will be used only for paying the regular operating costs of the school food program. Supplies of the school food program shall only be used for the school food program.

The board will set, and periodically review, the prices for school lunch and breakfast and special milk programs. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation regarding the prices of school lunch, breakfast and milk.

It shall be the responsibility of the director of food services to administer the program and to cooperate with the superintendent and head cook for the proper functioning of the school food program.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq. (1994).

Cross Reference: 1006.01 Use of School District Facilities and Equipment

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed February 13, 2006 Revised March 13, 2006

802.3 COLLECTION OF MONEY AND FOOD TICKETS

The superintendent shall be responsible for establishing procedures for the collection of lunch program money and issuance of food tickets. Proper accounting controls shall be created to ensure compliance with the National School Lunch Program.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

802.4 FOOD SERVICE RECORDS AND REPORTS

An independent certified public accountant or registered accountant will audit the food services fund annually. The audit will comply with federal requirements.

The food services program will be operated on a non-profit basis. Any income derived from the operation of the program will be used to support the food services program and will not be used for any other purpose.

The board shall review on an annual basis a summary of the food services financial records and be advised of recommendations for changes to the program.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

802.5 FREE OR REDUCED COST MEALS ELIGIBILITY

Students enrolled and attending school in the school district, who are unable to afford the special milk program, the cost or a portion of the cost of the school lunch, breakfast and supplemental foods, will be provided the school food program services at no cost or at a reduced cost.

It shall be the responsibility of the building principal to determine if a student qualifies for free or reduced cost school food services. Students, whom the principal believes are improperly nourished, will not be denied the school food program services simply because the paperwork has not been completed.

Employees, students and others will be required to purchase tickets for meals consumed.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations for implementing this policy.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq. (1994).

Cross Reference: 504.19 Student Fees

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

802.6 VENDING MACHINES

Food served or purchased by students during the school day and food served or purchased for other than special circumstances shall be approved by the superintendent. Vending machines in the school building shall be the responsibility of the building principal. Purchases from the vending machines, other than juice machines, shall not be made during the lunch periods.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations for the use of vending machines and other sales of food to students.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq. (1994).

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

803.1 PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES

Among the facilities available to teachers in carrying out their educational assignments are a variety of machines for reproducing the written and spoken word, either in single or multiple copies.

Infringement on copyrighted material, whether prose, poetry, graphic images, music, audio tape, video or computer-programmed materials, is a serious offense against federal law and contrary to the ethical standards required of staff and students alike.

Violations may result in criminal or civil suits.

The Board therefore requires that all reproduction of copyrighted material be conducted strictly in accordance with applicable provisions of law. Unless otherwise allowed as "fair use" under federal law, permission must be acquired from the copyright owner prior to reproduction of material in any form.

"Fair use" is not a rigidly defined term. "Fair use" is based on the following standards:

1. The purpose and character of the use;
2. The nature of the copyrighted work;
3. The amount of and the substantiality of the portion used;
4. The effect of the use upon the potential market for, or value of, the copyrighted work.

If an individual questions the legality of duplicating materials, he/she should seek permission from the copyright holders.

Employees in violation of copyright law may be required to remunerate the district in the event of loss due to litigation and may be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal.

The superintendent will develop administrative regulations that provide guidelines for the "fair use" of copyrighted materials that meet the requirements of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 and applicable amendments.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

803.2 MAIL AND DELIVERY SERVICE

The interschool mail service is established for school-related purposes. It provides a central mailing service to expedite the distribution of materials and professional communications among schools and staff members.

To avoid overburdening the service, employees will not be allowed to use interschool mail for the delivery of personal letters, notes and materials to other employees.

The recognized collective bargaining unit(s) will be permitted to use the service in accordance with the terms of their contracts, board policy on the use of school facilities and current postal regulations.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

803.3 TELEPHONE SERVICE

Cell Phones

The board recognizes that the use of cellular telephones may be appropriate to provide for the effective and efficient operation of the district and to help ensure safety and security of district property, staff and others while on district property or engaged in district-sponsored activities. To this end, the board authorizes the purchase and employee use of cellular telephones, as deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

District-owned cellular telephones shall be used for authorized district business purposes, consistent with the district's mission and goals. Personal use of such equipment is prohibited except in emergency situations. Any expenses incurred for such personal use shall be reimbursed to the district.

Use of cellular telephones in violation of board policies, administrative regulations and/or state and federal law will result in discipline up to and including dismissal and/or referral to law enforcement officials, as appropriate.

The superintendent is directed to develop administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy, including a uniform and controlled system for identifying employee cellular telephone needs, monitoring use and reimbursement. Provisions may also be included for staff use of privately-owned cellular telephones for authorized district business.

Personal use of privately-owned cellular telephones by employees authorized to use such equipment for district business is restricted to lunch, breaks or other such times when the employee is not on duty.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

803.4 FAX SERVICE

The district shall use FAX transmittals for the purpose of prompt exchange of information.

The superintendent shall develop procedures for:

1. Protecting the FAX code number from unsolicited users;
2. Transmitting confidential information;
3. Types of transmissions for which FAX will be used;
4. Developing a fee structure.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

804.1 COMPUTER SECURITY

Access to computer data stored within all computer systems will be strictly controlled for security.

The technology coordinator is responsible for maintaining security through procedures developed by the superintendent. These procedures will determine who may have various degrees of access to the system and will state requirements for monitoring the continued proper educational use of the system.

These procedures will also describe:

1. Proper methods of disposal of reports containing confidential or financial information at the end of their use.
2. Methods to ensure system security after change of job status of employees having access to system passwords.
3. Methods to provide backup access in the event of the extended absence of the system administrator.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

804.2 DATA OR RECORDS RETENTION

School district records shall be housed in the central administration office of the school district. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to oversee the maintenance and accuracy of the records. The following records shall be kept and preserved according to the schedule below:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| • Secretary's financial records | Permanently |
| • Treasurer's financial records | Permanently |
| • Minutes of the Board of Directors | Permanently |
| • Annual audit reports | Permanently |
| • Annual budget | Permanently |
| • Permanent record of individual pupil | Permanently |
| • Records of payment of judgments against the school district | 20 years |
| • Bonds and bond coupons | 10 years |
| • Written contracts | 10 years |
| • Cancelled warrants, check stubs, bank statements, bills, invoices, inventories and related records | 5 years |
| • Program grants | As determined by the grant |
| • Nonpayroll personnel records | 7 years |
| • Payroll records | 3 years |

Employees' records shall be housed in the central administration office of the school district. The employees' records shall be maintained by the superintendent, the building administrator and the employee's immediate supervisor.

The permanent and cumulative records of students currently enrolled in the school district shall be housed in the central administration office of the attendance center where the student attends. Permanent records must be housed in a fireproof vault.

Records of students who have graduated or are no longer enrolled in the school district shall be housed in the high school guidance storage areas .

The superintendent may microfilm or microfiche school district records and may destroy paper copies of the records if they are more than three years old. A properly authenticated reproduction of a microfilmed record meets the same legal requirements as the original record.

Cross Reference: 203.04 Secretary
 204.11 Meeting Minutes
 402.06 Employee Records
 507 Student Records
 1003 Public Examination of District Records

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

805.1 INSURANCE

The board will maintain a comprehensive insurance program to provide adequate coverage against major types of risk, loss, or damage, as well as legal liability. The board will purchase insurance at replacement values, when possible, after reviewing the costs and availability of such insurance. The comprehensive insurance program shall be reviewed once every three years.

The school district will assume the risk of property damage, legal liability, and dishonesty in cases in which the exposure is so small or dispersed that a loss does not significantly affect the operation of the education program or financial condition of the school district.

Insurance of buildings, structures, or property in the open will not generally be purchased to cover loss exposures below \$1,000 unless such insurance is required by statute or contract. The school district will make every effort to obtain property, vehicle, and liability insurance at the most economical cost, consistent with required service, by obtaining quotations or by negotiation, using whichever method is advantageous to the district.

Administration of the insurance program, making recommendations for additional insurance coverage, placing the insurance coverage and loss prevention activities shall be the responsibility of the superintendent.

Blanket building and equipment insurance will cover replacement costs with an agreed amount endorsement and with a deductible determined by the *[superintendent; business manager]* to provide the lowest possible premium costs consistent with adequate protection from unanticipated expenditures.

General and personal liability insurance will cover district Board members and employees only while acting in their official capacity.

The district will provide liability coverage for all district-owned or leased vehicles.

The district will establish and provide the opportunity for students to purchase student accident insurance. The district will not carry student accident insurance other than liability insurance.

The district will not be liable for theft and damage of personal property of students that is not a requirement for attendance or participation. Additionally, the district will not be liable for theft and damage of personal property of staff.

Approved January 12, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____