

**Douglas County
School District 15**

Code: **EEA**
Adopted: 4/09/12
Readopted: 10/20/14; 10/19/15; 8/14/17
Orig. Code(s): EEA

Student Transportation Services

School transportation services will be provided for students to and from school, curricular and extracurricular activities sponsored by the district, and school-sponsored field trips that are extensions of classroom learning experiences. Transportation will be provided for homeless students to and from the student's school of origin¹ as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). These services shall be provided throughout the regularly scheduled year and during the regular school day as determined by the Board.

Elementary students in grades K-8 who live more than one mile from school will be transported. Secondary students in grades 9-12 who live more than one and one-half miles from school will be transported. Mileage exceptions for health, safety or disability will be made in accordance with the district's approved supplemental plan.

Students living within specified attendance boundaries shall receive transportation services to their respective schools. In addition, students, including those receiving special education, may be eligible for transportation for health or safety reasons.

Miles from school will be determined by the transportation supervisor in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-023-0040(1)(e).

The district may use Type 10 School Activity Vehicles to transport students from home to school, school to home and from district-sponsored activities.

The district may also provide transportation using federal funds² or through cooperative agreements with local victims assistance units for a student to attend a safe district school³ out of the student's attendance area for any student who is a victim of a violent criminal offense occurring in or on the grounds of the school the student attends or the student attends a school identified as persistently dangerous.

¹"School of origin" means a school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.

When the student has completed the final grade served by the school of origin, the term "school of origin" shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

²"Federal funds" means funds available through Title IV, Part A, and Title V, Part A.

³If there is not another school in the district to which students can transfer, districts are encouraged, but not required to, explore other appropriate options, i.e., an agreement with a neighboring district.

If there are no other schools within the district a student may transfer to, the district may establish a cooperative agreement with other districts in the area for a transfer. Transportation for students who transfer for such purposes will be provided in accordance with the agreement.

Students attending any private, parochial or public charter school under the compulsory school attendance laws will, where the private, parochial or public charter school is along or near the bus route, be provided equally the riding privileges given to public school students.

Preschool students with disabilities who have transportation as a related service and children from birth to age three who are enrolled in an eligible program shall be provided home to school transportation.

A seat that fully supports each person and meets the minimum standards and specifications of law will be provided at all times. A person who weighs 40 pounds or less must be properly secured with a child safety system that meets the minimum standards and specifications established by the Oregon Department of Transportation under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 815.055. A person over 40 pounds or who has reached the upper weight limit for the forward-facing car seat must use a booster seat until he/she is four feet nine inches tall or age eight and the adult belt properly fits⁴. A person who is taller than four feet nine inches or eight years of age or older must be properly secured with a safety belt or harness that meets the requirements under ORS 815.055. In accordance with ORS 811.210 and 811.215, vehicles in excess of 10,000 pounds used for student transportation are exempt from statutory requirements unless they have been equipped with lap belts. Vehicles in excess of 10,000 pounds that have been equipped with lap belts must meet child car seat requirements as set forth in law.

School buses carrying students will be considered extensions of the school experience. All students using school transportation will abide by the code of conduct posted in each school bus or school activity vehicle. Violations of such code, as well as other conduct which is improper or which jeopardizes the safety of self or others, will be reported by the school bus or vehicle driver to the transportation supervisor. The transportation supervisor will, as soon as possible, inform the superintendent of such occurrence. Violators may be denied use of transportation for a period of time as deemed proper by the superintendent.

The superintendent or designee shall ensure transportation officials and drivers receive notification of students having special medical or behavioral protocols identified in student records.

Appropriate training related to specific protocols, including confidentiality requirements, will be provided to drivers.

Aides or assistants that ride a school bus shall receive training on emergency procedures and their role in the safe transportation of all students on the bus.

The school bus and vehicle driver will be responsible for the school bus and vehicle at all times from departure until return. The driver will not participate in any activities that might impair his/her driving abilities.

⁴“Proper fit” means the lap belt of the safety belt or safety harness is positioned low across the thighs and the shoulder belt is positioned over the collarbone and away from the neck.

The district will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to school bus transportation.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 327.006	ORS 815.080	OAR 581-053-0031
ORS 327.033	ORS 820.100 to-820.190	OAR 581-053-0040
ORS 327.043		OAR 581-053-0053
ORS 332.405	OAR 581-021-0050 to-0075	OAR 581-053-0060
ORS 332.415	OAR 581-022-1530	OAR 581-053-0070
ORS 339.240 to-339.250	OAR 581-023-0040	OAR 581-053-0210
ORS 343.155 to-343.246	OAR 581-053-0002	OAR 581-053-0220
ORS 343.533	OAR 581-053-0003	OAR 581-053-0230
ORS 811.210	OAR 581-053-0004	OAR 581-053-0240
ORS 811.215	OAR 581-053-0010	OAR 735-102-0010
ORS 815.055		

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6315, 7912 (2015).
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431-11435 (2015).

Cross Reference(s):

ECAC - Video Surveillance
EEAB - School Bus Scheduling and Routing
EEAC - School Bus Safety Program
EEACC - Student Conduct on School Buses