

## School Bus Safety Program

Each bus driver will be responsible for instructing their regular riders regarding school bus safety and emergency evacuation procedures. Instruction will be given once during the first six weeks of the first and second semesters of each school year. Instruction during each semester shall include an actual emergency evacuation drill. Bus safety training sessions within the first six weeks of each half of the school year for students who are regularly transported by the district shall include, but are not limited to, the following areas of instruction:

1. Safe school bus riding procedures, including, but not limited to leading, unloading, crossing etc;
2. Use of emergency exits; and
3. Planned and orderly evacuation of the school bus in case of emergency, including participation in actual evacuation drills.

Students who are **not** regularly transported by the district will be given the following instruction at least once in the first half of each school year:

1. Safe school bus riding procedures; and
2. Use of emergency exits.

A report form for bus safety instruction and emergency evacuation drills will be given to each driver at the beginning of each semester by the superintendent or his/her designee. When the required instruction and drills have been completed, the driver will sign, date, and return the form to the Superintendent or designee. Completed forms will be retained as a part of the district's official records.

Buses will not exceed vehicle design capacity for seating at any time unless an unforeseen or unusual circumstance. Passengers will be provided a seat that fully supports them. 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 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 the booster seat until he/she is four feet nine inches tall or age eight and the adult belt properly fits<sup>1</sup>. 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 used for student transportation in excess

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<sup>1</sup>“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.

of 10,000 pounds are exempt from this requirement 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.

During adverse weather conditions, the superintendent may alter bus schedules or cancel bus services. The superintendent or his/her designee will advise local radio stations and other media of any changes in bus schedules or services.

In the case of emergency or disaster, evacuation of students will be carried out according to the district's emergency plan.

An accident review board, convened by the superintendent, will study accidents involving district buses and will make recommendations to avoid similar accidents.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

<a href="#">ORS 811.210</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0004</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0410</a>
<a href="#">ORS 811.215</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0010</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0420</a>
<a href="#">ORS 815.055</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0021</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0430</a>
<a href="#">ORS 815.080</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0031</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0440</a>
<a href="#">ORS 820.100 to-820.190</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0210</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0445</a>
	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0240</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0510</a>
<a href="#">OAR 437-002-0220 to-0227</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0310</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0520</a>
<a href="#">OAR 581-022-1420</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0320</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0530</a>
<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0002</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0330</a>	<a href="#">OAR 735-102-0010</a>
<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0003</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-053-0340</a>	

**Cross Reference(s):**

EEA - Student Transportation Services  
EBCD - Emergency School Closures