

Silver Falls School District 4J

Code: **EEA/EEAB**

Adopted: 1/11/94-E

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7/8/02; 8/18/03, 3/12/07,
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Student Transportation

It is the intent of the district to provide safe transportation to and from school for those students who are eligible according to the policies established by the Board. Students are eligible for transportation under the provisions of and subject to this transportation policy, Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules. Transportation will be provided for homeless students to and from the school of origin¹ as required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLBA).

Transportation will be provided to a student of a school receiving Title I funds to a district school out of the student's attendance area because his/her home school has been identified as in need of improvement, corrective action or restructuring. The obligation of the district to provide transportation will terminate at the end of the school year if the school from which the student is transferred is no longer in school improvement status.

In the event all other district schools a student may transfer to have also been identified as in need of improvement, corrective action or restructuring or there is no other district school to which the student may transfer², the district shall, to the extent practicable, establish a cooperative agreement with other districts in the area for a transfer. Transportation for students who transfer for such purposes will be provided for in accordance with the agreement.

The district may also provide transportation using federal funds or through cooperative agreements with local victims assistance units for a student to attend a safe district school 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. Transportation provided will, to the extent possible, be to a school that is making adequate yearly progress

and that has not been identified as in need of improvement, corrective action or restructuring. 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.

¹“Student of origin” means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.

²If there are no district schools to which students can transfer because: (1) all schools at a grade level are in school improvement; (2) there is only one school in the district; or (3) the rural or isolated nature of the school district prevents choice, the district must notify the parents that the student’s school has been identified for school improvement but that no choices are currently available.

Walking Distance Radius

Students in grades K-8 are generally eligible for transportation to and from school if their legal residence is more than one mile from the school designated for attendance. Students in grades 9-12 are generally eligible for transportation to and from school if their legal residence is more than 1.5 miles from the school designated for attendance. Miles from school will be determined by the transportation supervisor in accordance with OAR 581-023-0040(1)(c).

Designated Transportation Boundaries

Because hazardous walking conditions, road directions and other geographical factors make the establishment of an exact walking radius impractical, the superintendent may establish designated transportation boundaries around the school.

In most cases, bus stops in areas with sidewalks shall be no closer than 1/2 mile apart. In rural areas, the bus shall stop no closer than every 1/2 mile. While these are general guidelines, the superintendent is authorized to designate each bus stop location after considering walking distance for students, dangerous intersections, roads without adequate walking space and other potentially hazardous conditions.

Bus Stops

Bus stops shall be assigned by the superintendent at specific locations outside the designated transportation boundaries. Such stops are to be in the safest possible locations in order to facilitate student safety.

In those instances where a bus is providing transportation for elementary and high school students, the needs of elementary students shall take priority in determining designated bus stops.

Buses will pick up and let off students only at designated bus stops. The superintendent may make exceptions for permanently or temporarily disabled students.

Students may board buses only at the assigned bus stop in order to ride to school and must get off their bus at the assigned bus stop after school.

Students who wish to get off buses at a place other than at school or their regular bus stop must have a written request from a parent, and signature of approval from the school office.

The bus driver shall collect approval slips, turning them in to the transportation office where they will be filed until the end of the school year.

Bus Routes

The district will provide school bus transportation along routes designated by the superintendent. Buses will not be operated on private roads and will only be operated on public roads that are regularly maintained in good condition. Any dead end road used for transportation must have a safe and adequate turnaround available.

Buses will maintain a fixed schedule, so far as weather and road conditions permit, and will not wait for students beyond the scheduled time of departure from a bus stop or school.

Loading or Unloading at School

Designated areas shall be established for buses to load and unload students at each school. These areas shall be signed and marked to exclude other vehicles during times of use.

Seating

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 ORS 815.055. A person who weighs more than 40 pounds, who is four feet nine inches or shorter and under eight years of age must be properly secured with a child safety system that elevates the person so that a safety belt or safety harness properly fits the person³. 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.

Transportation of Students With Special Needs

Permanently or temporarily disabled students who either receive transportation service as part of their Individual Education Program or are certified by a physician as needing special transportation for medical reasons, may be provided individual transportation services. Such service is to be approved by the superintendent or designee. This approval will be for the duration of the need but will not extend beyond the current school year.

The building principal or designee and the director of special programs 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.

Equipment Transportation

Skateboards, sports equipment not in a bag, or anything larger than that which can be safely held by the student will not be allowed on regular daily bus routes. No items will protrude into the aisles or the stepwell of the bus. Transporting items larger than those described is the responsibility of the students, their parents, or in case of field trips, the school.

³"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.

Field and Activity Trips

School buses may be used for district approved field and activity trips in addition to regular daily school transportation. Buses needed for transportation to and from school will take precedence over buses for other purposes. Generally, the contractor will have adequate number of buses available for field and activity trips that occur during hours which overlap school transportation.

Request for field trip transportation must be submitted on a request form, approved by the school principal and sent to the superintendent or designee at least ten days in advance of the planned trip. The superintendent or designee shall review all transportation requests and forward approved requests to the contractor. Request shall include loading times, whether trip is reimbursable or non-reimbursable and all authorized stops approved by the superintendent. The contractor will confirm all trips with the school principal upon receipt of trip request.

Coaches, teachers or other chaperons authorized by the superintendent or designee will ride each bus on field and activity trips. Coaches, teachers and chaperons have the initial responsibility for student behavior on the bus during trips. The bus driver has the final authority and responsibility for the bus and passengers during transit. Chaperons will cooperate with the bus driver in handling any discipline necessary to maintain proper safety on the bus. Prior to departure, the bus driver will converse in a professional manner with the coaches, teacher and chaperons on the expected behavior of the passengers.

Misbehaving students shall not be left in the care of the bus driver during activities.

The bus driver shall designate where baggage and equipment shall be placed. It is the bus driver's responsibility to ensure that all items are secured so that they will not pose a hazard to passengers in the event of an accident or sudden stop.

Bus driver shall not make stops, except brief rest stops, unless such stops are authorized on the field trip request form or by the superintendent.

Contractor will notify the school principal if there is an unexpected delay in return time.

Inclement Weather

In the event of weather that might cause it to be unsafe to transport students to or from school, the contractor is responsible for recommending actions concerning transportation. The contractor, based on a review of weather and road conditions, will recommend one of the following to the superintendent:

1. Routes at regular times, buses on normal routes.
2. Routes at regular times, buses on snow routes.
3. Delay of school for two hours, buses on normal routes.
4. Delay of school for two hours, buses on snow routes.
5. Delay of school for one hour, buses on normal routes.

6. Delay of school for one hour, buses on snow routes.
7. Early dismissal, buses on normal routes.
8. Early dismissal, buses on snow routes.
9. Closure of school.

In all cases, the superintendent shall choose the course of action best suited for the educational mission of the district and the safety of the students.

In case of inclement weather, when any option except option #1 is chosen, an announcement will be sent to radio and television stations by the superintendent.

Snow Routes

Snow routes, which are specifically designated to be used in cases of inclement weather, shall be established for all school transportation routes where there is a history of unsafe driving conditions in bad weather. The superintendent shall approve the special snow routes and emergency bus stops to be used.

Publication

Prior to August 1, the contractor will submit to the superintendent route schedules and snow route schedules for school transportation. These schedules, plus a list of radio and television stations carrying school closing information, will be distributed to students and made available to the Silverton Appeal-Tribune newspaper.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 327.006	ORS 343.155 - 343.246	OAR 581-021-0050 to -0075
ORS 327.033	ORS 343.533	OAR 581-022-1530
ORS 327.043	ORS 343.155 - 343.243	OAR 581-023-0040
ORS 332.405	ORS 811.210	OAR 581-053-0002 to -0015
ORS 332.415	ORS 815.055	OAR 735-102-0010
ORS 339.240 - 339.250	ORS 815.080	
	ORS 820.100 - 820.190	

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6315 (2006).
 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431-11435 (2005).

Cross Reference(s):

EBCD - Closure of Schools
 EEAC - School Bus Safety Program
 EEAD - Special Use of School Buses