

## School Bus Safety Program

The superintendent will ensure that instruction for students in school bus safety and emergency evacuation procedures is provided. School bus drivers shall assist in the instruction.

Students who are regularly transported by the district shall receive the following instruction within the first six weeks of each half of the school year:

1. Safe school bus riding procedures, including but not limited to loading, 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.

Students who regularly ride a bus will be provided such instruction within the first six weeks of each half of the school year. Students who ride occasionally will be given instruction at least once in the first half of each school year. The district will document and maintain records of the content and dates of instruction.

Buses will not exceed vehicle design capacity for seating at any time unless an unforeseen or unusual circumstance arises. Passengers will be provided a seat that fully supports them. 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 is under four years of age or 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 is at least four years of age and under six years of age or weighs between 40 and 60 pounds must be properly secured with a child safety system that elevates the person so that a safety belt or safety harness properly fits the person.<sup>1</sup> The child safety system shall meet the minimum standards and specifications of law.

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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.

During adverse weather conditions, school bus schedules or school bus service may be altered or canceled by the superintendent or designee. The superintendent or designee will advise local radio station(s) and other media of any changes in bus schedules or services.

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

The safety committee will study accidents involving the district school buses and will make recommendations to avoid similar accidents.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 811.210](#)  
[ORS 811.215](#)  
[ORS 815.055](#)  
[ORS 815.080](#)  
[ORS 820.100 - 820.190](#)

[OAR 437-002-0220 to -0227](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1420](#)

[OAR 581-053-0002 to -0015](#)  
[OAR 581-053-0512 to -0555](#)  
[OAR 735-102-0010](#)