

**Saint Helens
School District 502**

Code: **EEAC**
Adopted: 2/25/02
Revised: 10/27/08
Orig. Code(s): EEAC

School Bus Safety Program

1. The business manager, in conjunction with the transportation contractor, will organize, develop, and carry out instruction for students in school bus safety and emergency evacuation procedures. The following types of instruction will be provided:
 - a. Emergency evacuation through available emergency exits;
 - b. Safe operation of windows;
 - c. Awareness and knowledge of posted bus safety rules and regulations;
 - d. Location and proper use of fire extinguishers;
 - e. Student will be provided such instruction twice a year.
2. Buses will not exceed their seating capacities at any time.
3. Bus stops will be established at specified locations agreed upon by the school district and transportation company. All students shall ride the assigned bus and board and disembark at their assigned bus stops.
 - a. Parents of K-8 students must make a written request to the principal for any variation of the above procedure;
 - b. Upon approval of the principal, the request shall be presented to the bus driver by the student;
 - c. Parents will assume the added responsibility of the child when such requests are granted;
 - d. Students will not be released to anyone (including parents) once the bus has left the school property without written approval of a designated school official;
 - e. Students may be released from the bus while it is on school property through verbal permission of a designated school official.
4. During adverse weather conditions, the business manager, in consultation with the transportation contractor may alter bus schedules or cancel bus services. The business manager will advise local radio stations and other media of any changes in bus schedules or services.
5. In the case of emergency or disaster, evacuation of students will be carried out according to the district's emergency plan.
6. 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 at all times. A child safety system that elevates the person so that a safety belt or safety harness properly fits the person shall be provided for all children four or five years of age or who weighs 40 pounds or less, regardless of age, and are transported on district vehicles. 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 person. In accordance with ORS 811.210 and 811.215, district vehicles over 10,000 pounds or equipped with a lap belt only are exempt from these requirements. The child safety system shall meet the minimum standards and specifications of law.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 811.210](#)

[ORS 811.215](#)

[ORS 815.055](#)

[ORS 815.080](#)

[ORS 820.100 to-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](#)