

This board adopts as policy the Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations of the State Department of Education as may be updated and approved by the State Board of Education from time to time.

To afford more equal opportunity for public school attendance, the board shall, where practical, provide transportation for the public school students within this district.

Regularly enrolled students and duly enrolled students of this district who reside one and one-half (1½) miles or more from the school of attendance, may avail themselves of the transportation services the district operates in that particular area. The transportation services provided by this district are a privilege, not a right. Students may be prevented from availing themselves of transportation due to disciplinary infractions.

A day care, family day care home, or group day care facility as defined in Section 39-1102, Idaho Code, may substitute for the student's residence for student transportation to and from school.

SAFETY BUSING

The board may transport students living less than one and one-half (1 ½) miles from their attended school when, in its judgment, the age, health, or safety of the student warrants such transportation. The board acknowledges that students who reside within 1 ½ miles of the nearest appropriate school of attendance may encounter some hazards while walking to and from school. If the hazard(s) encountered as a pedestrian are determined to be so severe that the student is not safe, the board will seek approval from the state department of education to provide transportation for the student.

The board will appoint an ad hoc transportation committee whose purpose is to objectively evaluate the hazards encountered on pedestrian routes within 1 ½ miles from the district's schools. The committee will be composed of district staff, transportation professionals (city, county, state traffic engineers, and law enforcement professionals), parents, and student advocates (district and/or regional PTA representatives). The committee will meet as necessary to accomplish the objectives set forth in this policy and will comply with the open meeting laws.

Committee Responsibilities

The committee will:

1. Obtain from the board of a measuring instrument for assessing the various hazards encountered by student pedestrians. The committee may propose the instrument developed by the state department of education or an alternate instrument.
2. Develop and obtain approval from the board of a scoring mechanism, which designates a level of hazards that are deemed to pose an unreasonable safety risk for student pedestrians.
3. Identify all pedestrian routes within 1 ½ miles of each of the district schools.
4. Identify hazards that a student would likely encounter on the pedestrian routes within 1 ½ miles of each of the district schools.
5. Assess the various hazards which a student may encounter on the pedestrian routes, utilizing the board approved measuring instrument.
6. Assess each request for a safety busing site in accordance with the approved measuring instrument, recommending approval or disapproval to the board.
7. Reassess each approved safety busing site at a minimum of once every three (3) years, using the approved measuring instrument.
8. Report the committee's recommendations to the board at the board's regular meeting in August or at other times as requested by the board chairman.
9. Recommend proposals to be shared with the appropriate governmental entity(ies) for improving student pedestrian routes by removing or minimizing hazards.

The district will solicit route evaluation requests from all interested patrons. Such requests will be forwarded to the committee for assessment, utilizing the board approved measuring instrument.

The district will maintain all documentation of the evaluations of pedestrian route hazards and will make such documentation available to the state department of education, as requested.

The board may initially approve a safety busing request prior to submitting the required forms to the state department of education. All safety busing requests must be approved by the board and submitted to the state department of education by March 31 of the school year to be considered for reimbursement. A copy of the committee's assessment score must be attached to the request.

ESTABLISHING BUS ROUTES AND NONTRANSPORTATION ZONES

Each year the board will establish bus routes and determine non-transportation zones not later than at the regular August meeting of the board. The board may later change such routes or zones when change in the condition of roads, or in the number of students being transported, would justify such alteration. In approving the routing of school buses, or the maintenance and operation of all transportation equipment, or the appointment or employment of chauffeurs, the primary requirements to be observed by this board are the safety and adequate protection of the health of the students. All changes to established bus routes must be approved by the board.

Non-transportation zones are the geographical areas of this district, as designated by the board, which are impractical by reason of scarcity of students and/or remoteness or condition of roads to be served by established bus routes.

OPERATION OF BUSES AND VANS

To provide transportation to students, this district may purchase or lease, and maintain and operate school buses and vans, which vans will not have a seating capacity in excess of fifteen (15) persons; enter into agreements or contracts for the use of a charter bus(es); enter into contracts with individuals, firms, corporations, or private carriers; or make payments to parents or guardians, subject to statutory limitations, when transportation is not furnished by the district.



LEGAL REFERENCES:

Idaho Code Sections

33-512 – Governance of Schools

33-1006 – Transportation Support Program

33-1501, et seq. – Transportation of Pupils

39-1102 – Purposes for Which Bonds May be Issued

IDAPA 08.02.02.004.02 – Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations

IDAPA 08.02.02.170 – School Bus Drivers and Vehicle Operations

ADOPTED: March 11, 1998

AMENDED: February 19, 2019, March 16, 2021, March 15, 2022