

Book	TVASD Policy Manual
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Purpose

Transportation for students shall be provided in accordance with law and Board policy.

Definitions

School bus means a motor vehicle that is designed to carry eleven (11) passengers or more, including the driver, and is used for the transportation of preprimary, primary or secondary school students to or from public, private or parochial schools or events related to such schools or school-related activities.

[1]

School vehicle means a motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, designed for carrying no more than ten (10) passengers, including the driver, and used for the transportation of preprimary, primary or secondary school students while registered by or under contract to the school district. The term includes vehicles having chartered, group and party rights under the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and used for the transportation of school children.[1]

Authority

School bus transportation is a permitted function under the Public School Code of Pennsylvania. It is not a mandated function. The District, therefore, has discretionary authority over bus routes, bus stops and related matters.

The Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District will transport students from the student's residence and under district policy allowances. This shall be done in accordance with guidelines contained in district policy, the Public School Code, and the Vehicle Code of Pennsylvania. The Public School Code states that the maximum walking distance shall be one and one-half (1 ½) miles for elementary students unless a hazardous route exists as certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. It is the intent of the District to provide a safe, efficient and economical transportation system.

School bus transportation is a privilege that may be taken away for unacceptable behavior. Proper behavior on buses and at bus stops is directly related to transportation safety. Parents and guardians are encouraged to emphasize this with the students.

The Board shall provide transportation for resident students in grades kindergarten through 12 to the district's public schools and charter, regional charter and nonpublic schools located in the district or within the district's transportation boundary or other placements as required by law or agreements. The district's transportation boundary is a distance not exceeding ten (10) miles by the nearest public highway outside the school district's border.[2][3][4]

The Board shall purchase, lease, equip and maintain school buses/vehicles and/or contract for school bus/vehicle services for transportation of students to and from school at regularly scheduled hours and for field trips and extracurricular activities.[2][3][5][6][7][8][9][10]

The Board shall provide transportation for students living within the prescribed limits when walking conditions to the school are found to be hazardous by the Department of Transportation.[3][11]

The Board shall provide transportation for students with disabilities, without regard to distance or hazardous walking conditions, when required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreement.[12][13][14][15][16]

The Board shall provide transportation for eligible resident students who are enrolled in nonpublic schools or charter schools as required by law.[2][4][17]

The Board shall provide transportation for children in foster care in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, and the local transportation plan.[18][19]

The Board shall provide transportation for homeless children and youths in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.[19][20]

The Board prohibits any diesel-powered motor vehicle weighing 10,001 pounds or more to idle for more than five (5) minutes in any continuous sixty-minute period while parked, loading or unloading, except as allowed by law.[21]

The Board shall ensure that permanent signs, notifying drivers of the idling restrictions, are maintained on district property at locations where diesel-powered motor vehicles weighing 10,001 pounds or more load or unload. Signs shall also be posted at locations that provide fifteen (15) or more parking spaces for such diesel-powered motor vehicles.[22][23]

Delegation of Responsibility

The school bus/vehicle driver shall be responsible to maintain order while students are being transported.

The school bus/vehicle driver shall report all incidents, including, but not limited to, discipline problems, medical problems, bullying/harassment, safety issues, accidents or injuries, and violations of Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law to the Superintendent or designee as soon as practicable.

The building principal may suspend a student from bus transportation for disciplinary reasons, and the parents/guardians shall be responsible for the student's transportation.[7]

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to:

1. Maintain records and make required reports regarding school transportation.[5][7]
2. Distribute rules governing student conduct during transport; such rules shall be binding on all students transported by the district.[7]
3. Provide each school bus/school vehicle driver with:
 - a. The Pennsylvania School Bus Driver's Manual;
 - b. The written rules for student conduct on buses/vehicles;
 - c. The procedures for evacuation drills; and
 - d. Any additional laws and applicable Board policies and administrative regulations which apply to school bus/vehicle drivers.
4. Establish administrative regulations that specify the number of chaperones to accompany students in connection with school-related activities and field trips.[7][24]

5. Prepare a district list, map or schedule indicating each bus stop and bus route. [7]

Guidelines

Student Health Information

When necessary for student safety, or when required by a student's IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement, a school bus/vehicle driver shall be provided with relevant student health and medical information. [15][16][25][26][27][28]

School bus/vehicle drivers shall maintain the confidentiality of student health/medical information in accordance with district policies and procedures and applicable law. [29][30]

Evacuation Drills

Bus evacuation drills shall be conducted twice a year and reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, in accordance with law and Board policy. [31][32][33]

Late Buses

Late bus routes may be established for the convenience of students participating in extracurricular activities. Such routes will be as uniform in length as possible and bus stops will be established at locations close to the District's population centers. Such buses will not necessarily follow regular bus routes.

Bus Stop Shelters

Bus stop shelters are not provided by the District. However, the District will provide appropriate bus stop information to interested individuals and/or community groups desiring to erect bus shelter. Such individuals and/or community groups will be responsible for obtaining the necessary approvals, insurance and for maintaining the bus shelter.

Use of School Bus Emergency Doors and Equipment

Students who are transported by school buses shall use the bus emergency doors and other emergency exits, the emergency fire equipment and first aid kits only under the direction of the bus driver, during a scheduled evacuation drill, or only in the case of an obvious emergency.

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Legal

[1. 75 Pa. C.S.A. 102](#)

[2. 24 P.S. 1361](#)

[3. 24 P.S. 1362](#)

[4. 24 P.S. 1726-A](#)

[5. 22 PA Code 23.1](#)

[6. 22 PA Code 23.2](#)

[7. 22 PA Code 23.4](#)

8. Pol. 610

9. Pol. 611

10. Pol. 818

[11. 67 PA Code 447.1 et seq](#)

[12. 22 PA Code 23.3](#)

[13. 24 P.S. 1374](#)

14. Pol. 103

15. Pol. 103.1

16. Pol. 113

17. Pol. 140

[18. 20 U.S.C. 6312](#)

19. Pol. 251

[20. 42 U.S.C. 11432](#)

[21. 35 P.S. 4601 et seq](#)

[22. 35 P.S. 4608](#)

[23. 67 PA Code 212.101](#)

24. Pol. 121

25. Pol. 209.1

26. Pol. 209.2

27. Pol. 210

28. Pol. 210.1

29. Pol. 113.4

30. Pol. 216

[31. 24 P.S. 1517](#)

[32. 75 Pa. C.S.A. 4552](#)

33. Pol. 805

[24 P.S. 1331](#)

[24 P.S. 1365](#)

[24 P.S. 1366](#)

[24 P.S. 2541](#)

[24 P.S. 2542](#)

[22 PA Code 15.1 et seq](#)

[22 PA Code 23.6](#)

[75 Pa. C.S.A. 4551-4553](#)

[20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq](#)

[42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq](#)

[49 CFR Part 37](#)

[49 CFR Part 38](#)

Pol. 810.1