



Book	Policy Manual
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#### 8600 - **TRANSPORTATION**

The policy of the School Board is to provide transportation for those students whose distance from their school makes this service necessary within the limitations established by state law and the regulations of the State of Florida. Such laws and rules shall govern any question not covered by this policy.

Provisions for reciprocal agreements with contiguous school districts for school bus and other Board-approved vehicle transportation services, inspections, and screening requirements shall be in accordance with Florida statute.

School buses shall be purchased, housed, and maintained by the District for the transportation of resident students between their home areas and the schools of the District to which they are assigned.

Students living more than two (2) miles from their home school will be eligible for District-provided bus transportation. The two (2) mile distance is measured by the most direct traveled route to and from the closest pedestrian entry point of school property. Students who attend school out of their home school zone will not be eligible for District-provided transportation except as required by federal or state statute. Students shall board the bus at the nearest designated stop and will not enter or leave the bus at any other designated stop, except upon written approval of the principal or principal's designee. A bus pass, indicating approval, must be given to the bus driver.

Students may be provided District bus transportation under the following conditions:

- A. Permanently disabled students, whose individual education plan requires special transportation;
- B. Temporarily disabled students upon request and verification (approved 504 Plan) of disability and length of time of disability; and
- C. Elementary students whose walking routes to school meet the state criteria for hazardous walking conditions;

F.S. 1006.23 requires the Board and other governmental entities work cooperatively to identify conditions that are hazardous along student walking routes to school and requires such condition shall be inspected by a representative of the School District and a representative of the state or local governmental entity that has jurisdiction over the perceived hazardous location. If it is determined that the condition meets the criteria established in state law for hazardous walking conditions, the Board shall provide transportation to students who would be subjected to such conditions. State law further requires state or local governmental entities having jurisdiction to correct such hazardous conditions within a reasonable period of time. The Board and Superintendent shall follow state law with respect to correcting hazardous walking conditions.

- D. Pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade students must be escorted to and from their designated bus stops. The escort must be the parent, guardian, or other responsible person (including a sibling in grade 5 or above, or a student's child care provider) who has been designated in advance and in writing by the parent or guardian. Any pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or first grade students not met by the designated escort in the afternoon will be returned to the school of attendance. The school administration will contact the parents/guardians for pick-up.

Students eligible for transportation who are beyond the accessibility of school bus transportation shall be provided isolated transportation by payment to the parent/guardian of an amount established by the Board. Payment of the amount established will be based upon the date of the application or the date the service began whichever occurred first during the current attendance reporting period. The reimbursement rate remains in effect throughout the entire agreed-upon terms of the contract.

Parents/guardians of students who have been using school bus transportation and are determined to be non-eligible for school bus transportation shall be notified by the school of attendance. The student will be allowed to ride the bus for a maximum of five (5) additional days depending on the circumstances of the non-eligibility. If the student was riding the school bus illegally, removal from the bus will be immediate.

Students living within private, gated residential developments will be required to walk to a bus stop on a public road nearest to their development. District buses may not travel on private roads or non-publicly maintained roads unless safety or other conditions warrant.

Bus routes shall be established so that an authorized bus stop is available within reasonable walking distance of the home of every resident student entitled to transportation services. Walking distance for elementary school students is one (1) mile, for middle school students is one and a half (1.5) miles, and for high school students is one and a half (1.5) miles. The Board may adjust walking distances as needed up to one and a half (1.5) miles. The Board shall approve the bus routes annually. The Superintendent is authorized to make any necessary changes in the approved route.

The Board authorizes the installation and use of video recording devices in the school buses to assist the drivers in providing for the safety and well-being of the students while on a bus.

The Superintendent shall require that bus operators and attendants are provided instructions, in writing, as to any special conditions or non-medical care which a student may need while on the bus.

Further, the Superintendent shall require the Director of Transportation to consider the knowledge, skills, and abilities related to student management techniques, as well as the characteristics of students with disabilities, when selecting or assigning operators and attendants for routes serving ESE students.

Parents, guardians, and students shall be informed at least annually in writing of their responsibilities for the following:

- A. To ensure the safe travel of their students during the portions of each trip to and from school and home when the students are not under the custody and control of the District, including during each trip to and from home and the assigned bus stop when the District provides bus transportation;
- B. To ensure that students ride only on their assigned school buses and get off only at assigned bus stops, except when the District has approved, upon the request of the parent or guardian, alternative buses or arrangements;
- C. To ensure students are aware of and follow the District's adopted Code of Student Conduct while the students are at school bus stops and provide necessary supervision during times when the bus is not present;
- D. To ensure that, when the physical disability of the student renders the student unable to get on and off the bus without assistance, the parent or guardian provides the necessary assistance to help the student get on and off at the bus stop, as required by District policy or the student's individual educational plan.

#### School Bus Infraction Detection Systems

Consistent with F.S. 316.173 and based solely on the need to increase public safety, the Board operates a school bus infraction detection system on select school buses in the District for the purpose of enforcing F.S. 316.172(1)(a) and (b).

A school bus equipped with a school bus infraction system must meet the specifications set forth in F.A.C. 6A-3.003.

No individual is permitted to receive a commission from any revenue collected from violations detected through the use of the District's system. In the event the District contracts with a vendor or manufacturer to install a school bus infraction detection system on any school bus or operate and maintain the system, such vendor or manufacturer is not permitted to receive a fee or remuneration based upon the number of violations detected through the use of a school bus infraction

detection system. This paragraph does not prohibit a private vendor or manufacturer from receiving a fixed amount of collected proceeds for service rendered in relation to the installation, operation, or maintenance of the District's school bus infraction detection system.

The Board shall enter into an interlocal agreement with one or more law enforcement agencies authorized to enforce violations of F.S. 316.172(1)(a) and (b) within the District which jointly establishes the responsibilities of enforcement and the reimbursement of costs associated with school bus infraction detection systems consistent with F.S. 316.173.

All school bus infraction detection systems shall meet specifications established by the State Board of Education and will be tested at regular intervals according to specifications prescribed by state Board rule.

#### Signage on School Buses

Any school bus with an operational infraction detection system will include signage on the rear of the bus. The signage must be in the form of one or more signs or stickers and must contain the following elements in substantially the following form:

- A. The words "STOP WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASH" or "DO NOT PASS WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASH";
- B. The words "CAMERA ENFORCED"; and
- C. A graphic depiction of a camera.

The signage must occupy at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the available space that does not contain signs or insignia that are required by other applicable law or by the State Board of Education.

#### Notice to the Public

The District will make a public announcement and conduct a public awareness campaign of the proposed use of school bus infraction detection systems at least 30 days before commencing enforcement under the school bus infraction detection system program and notify the public of the specific date on which the program will commence. During the thirty (30) day public awareness campaign, only a warning may be issued to the registered owner of a motor vehicle for a violation F.S. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) enforced by a school bus infraction detection system, and a civil penalty may not be imposed F.S. Chapter 318.

#### Violations

Within thirty (30) days after an alleged violation of F.S. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) is recorded by a school bus infraction detection system, the District or its private vendor or manufacturer must submit the following information to a law enforcement agency that has entered into an interlocal agreement with the District pursuant to this policy and has traffic infraction enforcement jurisdiction at the location where the alleged violation occurred:

- A. A copy of the recorded video and images showing the motor vehicle allegedly violating F.S. 316.172(1)(a) or (b);
- B. The motor vehicle's license plate number and the state of issuance of the motor vehicle's license plate; and
- C. The date, time, and location of the alleged violation.

#### Videos and Images of Alleged Infractions

The school bus infraction detection system may not be used for remote surveillance. The collection of evidence by the school bus infraction detection system to enforce violations of F.S. 316.172 does not constitute remote surveillance.

Video and images recorded as part of the school bus infraction detection system may only be used for traffic enforcement and for purposes of determining criminal or civil liability for incidents captured by the school bus infraction detection system incidental to the permissible use of the system.

To the extent practicable, a school bus infraction detection system will utilize necessary technology so that personal identifying information contained in the video or still images recorded by the system which is not relevant to the alleged violation, including, but not limited to, the identity of the driver and any passenger of a motor vehicle, the interior or contents of a motor vehicle, the identity of an uninvolved person, a number identifying the address of a private residence, and the contents or interior of a private residence, is sufficiently obscured so as not to reveal such personal identifying information.

Any recorded video or still image obtained through the use of a school bus infraction detection system must be destroyed within ninety (90) days after the final disposition of the recorded event. The vendor of the school bus infraction detection system must provide the District with written notice by December 31st of each year that such records have been destroyed in accordance with F.S. 316.173.

#### Quarterly Reporting to the Florida Department of Education

By October 1, 2023, and quarterly thereafter, the District, will submit, in consultation with the law enforcement agencies with which it has interlocal agreements pursuant to this policy, a report to the Florida Department of Education which details the results of the school bus infraction detection systems in the District in the preceding quarter. The report will contain the information required in F.S. 316.173. The District will maintain its respective data for reporting purposes for at least two (2) years after such data is reported to the Florida Department of Education.

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Revised 5/11/10

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Legal	F.S. 316.173
	F.S. 316.183(3)
	F.S. 316.217(1)(b)
	F.S. 1006.21
	F.S. 1006.22
	F.S. 1006.23
	F.S. 1011.68
	F.S. 1012.45
	F.A.C. Chapter 6A-3
	F.A.C. 6A-3.003