

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

The safe transportation of students to and from school is of primary concern in the administration of the school bus program. All state laws and regulations pertaining to the safe use of school buses will be observed by drivers, students, and school personnel.

Use of Portable Electronic Devices Prohibited

For purposes of this policy, and in accordance with applicable law, the terms below will be defined as follows:

- a) "Portable electronic device" means any mobile telephone (hand held or "hands free"), personal digital assistant (PDA), portable device with mobile data access, laptop computer, pager, broadband personal communication device, two-way messaging device, electronic game, motor vehicle fob, portable computing device, or any other electronic device when used to input, write, send, receive, or read text for present or future communication.
- b) "Using" means holding a portable electronic device while viewing, taking, or transmitting images, playing games, or for the purpose of present or future communication: performing a command or request to access a world wide web page, composing, sending, reading, viewing, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving, or retrieving email, text messages, or other electronic data.

No person shall operate a motor vehicle while using any portable electronic device while such vehicle is in motion; provided, however, that no person shall operate a commercial motor vehicle while using any portable electronic device on a public highway including while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays. Provided further, however, that a person shall not be deemed to be operating a commercial motor vehicle while using a portable electronic device on a public highway when such vehicle is stopped at the side of, or off, a public highway in a location where such vehicle is not otherwise prohibited from stopping by law, rule, regulation or any lawful order or direction of a police officer.

All school bus drivers' personal portable electronic devices are to be placed in the "off" position when in the possession of the school bus driver while the bus is in operation. Portable electronic devices, including cell phones, may be used in case of emergency only under the directive of the Transportation Supervisor or designee and within the compliance of the laws and regulations set forth.

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SUBJECT: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM (cont'd)**Safety Rule and Inspections**

The Transportation Supervisor, in cooperation with district administrators, has the responsibility of developing and publishing safety rules to be followed by drivers and passengers, including rules of student conduct. In order to ensure maximum safety to those riding school buses, it is necessary that students and drivers cooperate in this effort.

All buses and other vehicles owned and operated by the District will have frequent safety inspections, and will be serviced regularly. The Transportation Supervisor or designee will maintain a comprehensive record of all maintenance performed on each vehicle.

Every bus driver is required to report promptly to the Transportation Supervisor or designee any school bus accident, regardless of the severity, involving death, injury, or property damage.

Education Law § 3623

Vehicle and Traffic Law §§ 509-a(7), 509-1(1-b), 1174 and 1225-c

8 NYCRR § 156.3

17 NYCRR Sections 720.2, 721.1, and 721.2

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #5683 -- Fire and Emergency Drills, Bomb Threats and Bus
Emergency Drills
#5741 -- Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers and Other
Safety-Sensitive Employees

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