

# **SAFETY AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

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Safety is of paramount concern in providing student transportation services. The board recognizes that providing safe transportation requires the cooperation of students, parents, volunteers, personnel and other governmental agencies. The superintendent or designee and all principals are responsible for making reasonable efforts to inform affected individuals or entities about safety issues and monitor compliance with legal requirements and this policy.

## **A. STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

A safe and orderly environment is critical whenever transporting students. All board policies on student behavior apply as provided in Orange County Schools Student Discipline and Code of Conduct. Students will receive training on school bus safety as required by law.

## **B. MAINTENANCE**

The superintendent or designee and principals will fulfill all duties prescribed by state law and regulations for maintaining, inspecting and repairing school buses and other vehicles used to transport students.

## **C. UNSAFE CONDITIONS**

All school bus drivers are expected to use good judgment in determining whether it is safe to operate a school vehicle, and to permit students to enter or leave the bus at particular locations. Bus drivers must report immediately any suspected mechanical defects or other unsafe conditions, including road or traffic conditions which affect the safeness of the bus route or bus stops.

## **D. ACCIDENT REPORTING**

The driver of any school bus or other school vehicle must report immediately any accident involving death, injury or property damage to the superintendent or his or her designee.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-239, -245, -248; 16 NCAC 6B.0002, 0003; Handbook for School Bus Drivers, Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles