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*Rescinds Policy Number: EBBE-R*

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Each principal shall be responsible for designating someone to supervise the loading and unloading of all vehicles conveying school students and the safe moving of traffic at these times. This person shall not position himself or herself in any street or highway in performing the above duties.

Principals may ask assistance of various local law enforcement departments.

Principals shall also check the areas around their schools and note any hazardous street or highway crossings and make any necessary recommendation to the superintendent.

Legal Reference: North Carolina General Statute 20-114.1 gives law enforcement officers, uniformed regular and volunteer firemen and uniformed regular and volunteer members of rescue squads in connection with their duties the authority to direct, control or regulate traffic. There is no comparable statute for a school principal to direct, control or regulate traffic in order to allow school buses to enter the highway. In addition, North Carolina General Statutes 20-174.1 prohibits anyone from standing, sitting or lying upon a street or highway in a manner as to impede the regular flow of traffic. A person standing in the road directing traffic with authority would appear to violate this section. On the other hand, NC G.S. 20-174 (e) requires every driver of a vehicle to exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway and every driver is required to give warning by sounding the horn. Special precaution must also be taken upon observing any child upon a roadway.

Based upon the above law, it appears that a principal has not authority to stop traffic in order to allow school buses onto the open road. If he does so attempt to regulate traffic and an accident occurs, he may be liable for injuries or property damage. The liability will depend upon the exact situation.