

## EEAE- SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

*Category: Recommended*

*Related Policies: ECAF, EEA, EEAE-R, GBCD, & JICC*

**A. School Bus Safety Program.** The safety and welfare of student riders will be the first consideration in all matters pertaining to transportation. Safety precautions will include the following:

1. The Transportation Coordinator will assure that students using District transportation are provided annual instruction as to the proper procedure for boarding and exiting from a school bus, and in proper and safe conduct while aboard. See School Bus Conduct Rules at JICC. Additionally, the Transportation Coordinator will assure that emergency evacuation drills from school buses will be conducted at least two times a year to acquaint student riders with procedures in emergency situations (See RSA 189:6-a, I & II). Additionally, the Transportation Coordinator is encouraged to establish guidelines for families relative to safe practices for students in between home and bus stops.
2. All vehicles used to transport children will be inspected on a regular schedule to see that they meet applicable safety regulations.
3. All drivers, whether employed by the District or a contracted vendor, and whether certified school bus drivers or contracted carriers under RSA 376:2, VII, will be screened before employment for physical condition, proper license, criminal records background check (per Board policy GBCD), and experience. The prior driving record of each driver will be checked for drug and alcohol or other convictions and a criminal records check must also be completed. All checks and screenings will be conducted in accordance with Board policy EEAEA.
4. To help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of students, passengers and others relative to District provided transportation, the School Board has authorized use of video and/or audio surveillance on school buses. Conducting such surveillance, and the use of any subsequent recordings in student disciplinary proceedings, will be in accordance with Board policy ECAF.
5. The School District or independent contractor will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of school buses and will make these requirements known to bus drivers. It will also cooperate with local safety officials in formulating and accomplishing its school bus safety program.

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**B. Student Conduct on School Buses.** Student conduct on District transportation shall be regulated in accordance with Board policy JICC, School Bus Conduct Rules See also Board policy EE.A.

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### **District Policy History:**

***First Reading:*** September 14, 2010, June 11, 2024

***Second Reading:*** October 12, 2010, June 25, 2024

***Final Adoption:*** October 12, 2010, June 25, 2024

***Revision History:*** June 25, 2024

### **Legal References:**

NH Statutes	Description
RSA 189:13-b	<a href="#"><u>School Bus Driver &amp; Transportation Monitor Criminal History Records Check</u></a>
RSA 189:6-a	<a href="#"><u>School Bus Safety</u></a>
RSA 189:9-a	<a href="#"><u>Pupils Prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons</u></a>
RSA 376:2, VII	<a href="#"><u>Motor Carriage of Passengers</u></a>
RSA 570-A:2	<a href="#"><u>Capture of Audio Recordings on School Buses Allowed</u></a>

Federal Regulations	Description
49 C.F.R. § 40.1-40.13 (2001)	<a href="#"><u>Transportation Workplace Drug Testing Program</u></a>
49 C.F.R. Part 391 (1995)	<a href="#"><u>Qualifications of Drivers</u></a>
49 CFR Part 382	<a href="#"><u>Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing</u></a>

Federal Statutes	Description
20 U.S.C. §1232g	<a href="#"><u>Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)</u></a>

**Legal References Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.