



# SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN



## SCHOOLS: STUDENT TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES & BEST PRACTICES

Whenever a school district is required to provide transportation to students attending regular public school programs, it is vital to follow the school district's student transportation policy for several reasons:

**Safety:** The primary goal of any student transportation policy is to ensure the safety of students. Policies typically include guidelines on student behavior, bus routes, and emergency procedures. Adhering to these rules helps prevent accidents and ensures that students are transported safely to and from school<sup>[1]</sup>.

**Consistency and Reliability:** A well-defined transportation policy ensures that bus schedules and routes are consistent and reliable. This helps parents and students plan their daily routines and reduces the likelihood of missed pickups or delays<sup>[2]</sup>.

**Legal Compliance:** School districts must comply with state and federal regulations regarding student transportation. Following the district's policy ensures that the school is meeting these legal requirements, which can help avoid potential legal issues<sup>[1]</sup>.

**Efficient Use of Resources:** Adhering to transportation policies helps the school district use its resources efficiently. This includes optimizing bus routes to save fuel and time, and ensuring that buses are not overcrowded<sup>[2]</sup>.

**Promoting Good Behavior:** Transportation policies often include rules for student conduct on buses. Following these rules helps maintain a safe and respectful environment for both students and bus drivers<sup>[3]</sup>.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Policies typically include procedures for emergencies, such as bus evacuations. Knowing and following these procedures can be critical in ensuring student safety during unexpected situations<sup>[2]</sup>.

By understanding and following the school district's transportation policy, everyone involved can contribute to a safer, more efficient, and more reliable transportation system for students.

The [New Department of Education Office of School Finance covers Student Transportation](#). Student Transportation is responsible for developing regulations and procedures for safe and efficient student transportation services. Staff monitors, analyzes, and evaluates local districts' transportation systems, keeping records in order to increase the safety, cost-effectiveness, and accountability of transportation operations. In addition, staff performs a fiscal function by collecting and validating various data necessary to calculate state aid for student transportation, and conducts studies to identify operational trends and efficiencies. Finally, the staff develops training programs, provides guidance and oversight in the consolidation of public and nonpublic school transportation services among districts and other agencies, and oversees the administration of transportation contracts.

Resources include:

- [Administrative Code](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Contractor Codes](#)
- [Procedures & Related Documents](#)
- [Transportation Contracts Procedures & Forms](#)
- [Transportation Efficiency](#)
- [Safety & Training](#)
- [Links](#)
- [District Report of Transported Resident Students](#)

### References

[1] [707 - Student Transportation | policy - District 196](#)

[2] [709 - Student Transportation Safety Policy | Details](#)

[3] [709 Policy: Student Transportation Safety | article - rdale.org](#)

