



Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 Series - Non-Instructional Operations
Title	Bus Routes, Stops, Non-Transportation Zones, and Safety
Code	8120
Status	Policy Committee Review

Each year, no later than the regular Board meeting in August, the Superintendent/designee shall present their recommendation for bus routes, school safety busing zones, and non-transportation zones to the Caldwell School District Board of Trustees. The Board shall consider student health and safety in considering the recommendations of the Superintendent/designee.

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 "Safety Busing Zone" shall mean the transportation of a student who lives less than one and one-half (1½) miles from school when, in the judgment of the Board, the age, health, or safety of the student warrants such action. (See Policy 8110 Safety Busing).

1.2 "Non-Transportation Zone" shall mean an area of the District designated by the Board which is not served by District transportation because of scarcity of students or remoteness, or because the condition of roads makes such service impractical.

SECTION 2. ESTABLISHING BUS ROUTES

2.1 In order to operate the transportation system as safely and efficiently as possible, the following factors shall be considered in establishing bus routes:

2.1.1 School bus routes shall be established with due consideration of the sum total of local conditions affecting the safety, economic soundness, and convenience of its operation including road conditions, condition of bridges and culverts, hazardous crossings, presence of railroad tracks and arterial highways, extreme weather conditions and variations, length of route, number of families and children to be serviced, availability of turn-around points, capacity of bus, and other related factors, including safety busing zones.

2.1.2 School bus drivers are encouraged to make recommendations in regard to establishing or changing routes.

2.1.3 Parents should be referred to the Superintendent/designee for any request of change in routes, stops, or schedules.

2.1.4 At least every five (5) years, a transportation audit shall be done to evaluate each route for the purpose of assessing the safety of routes and bus stops. Documentation of the route evaluation shall be retained by the District.

SECTION 3. BUS STOPS

3.1 Buses should stop only at designated places approved by school authorities. Exceptions should be made only in cases of emergency and inclement weather conditions. Bus stops shall be chosen with safety and protection of the health of the student in mind.

3.2 School loading and unloading zones are to be established and marked to provide safe and orderly loading and unloading of students. The principal/designee of each building is responsible for the adequate supervision, safety, and conduct of students waiting in school campus loading zones.

SECTION 4. DELAY IN SCHEDULE

4.1 The schedule for pickup and delivery of children shall be followed as accurately as possible. The driver is to notify the administration of a delay in schedule. The principal/designee will notify parents if there is a delay on route(s), if necessary.

SECTION 5. RESPONSIBILITIES - STUDENTS

5.1 Students must realize that safety is based on group conduct. Talk should be in conversational tones at all times. There should be no shouting or loud talking which may distract the bus driver. There should be no shouting at passersby. Students should instantly obey any command or suggestions from the driver and/or their assistants.

5.2 A student may be denied transportation upon a showing of good cause. The reason for the denial of transportation services shall be provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing.

SECTION 6. RESPONSIBILITIES - PARENTS/GUARDIANS

6.1 The interest and assistance of each parent/guardian is a valued asset to the transportation program. Parents' and guardians' efforts towards making each bus trip a safe and pleasant experience are requested and appreciated. The following suggestions are only four (4) of the many ways parents can assist:

6.1.1 Ensure that students are at the bus stop in sufficient time to efficiently meet the bus;

6.1.2 Properly prepare children for weather conditions; and

6.1.3 Encourage school bus safety at home. Caution children regarding safe behavior and conduct while riding on the school bus.

6.1.4 Follow all of the contracted bus company's procedures and/or protocols, such as waiting at the bus stop for all Pre-K, kindergarten, and specially designated special education students.

SECTION 7. SAFETY

7.1 The Superintendent/designee shall develop written rules establishing the procedures for bus safety and emergency exit drills which comply with State law and Federal Highway Safety Guideline 17, and for student conduct while riding on buses.

7.2 If the bus and driver are present, the driver is responsible for the safety of their passengers, particularly for those who must cross a roadway prior to loading or after leaving the bus. Except in emergencies, no bus driver shall order or allow a student to board or disembark at other than their assigned stop unless so authorized by the Superintendent/designee. In order to assure the safety of all, the bus driver may hold students accountable for their conduct during the course of transportation and may recommend corrective action against a student. Bus drivers are expressly prohibited from using corporal punishment.

SECTION 8. INCLEMENT WEATHER

8.1 The Board recognizes the unpredictability and resulting dangers associated with the weather in Idaho. To achieve the maximum safety for children and efficiency of operation, the Superintendent/designee is empowered to make decisions as to the emergency operation of buses, the cancellation of bus routes, and the closing of schools in accordance with their best judgment.

Legal

[I.C. § 33-1501 Transportation Authorized](#)

[I.C. § 33-1502 Bus Routes—Non-Transportation Zones](#)

[I.C. § 49-1422 Overtaking and Passing a School Bus](#)

[Idaho Department of Education, Idaho's School Bus Driver Training Classroom Curriculum](#)

[Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations](#)

Cross References

8110 Safety Busing