



Responsible Office: Office of Operations, Transportation Department

BOARD POLICY 7500

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees is committed to establishing a safe, responsive and accountable system of student transportation, in partnership with parents/guardians and students. This policy shall delineate the services provided by the Washoe County School District and provide guidance to students and their families regarding their obligations as safe riders of school transportation.

POLICY

1. The District is authorized by the laws of the State of Nevada to provide safe and efficient transportation to eligible students residing within Washoe County.
2. The District, through the oversight of the Board of Trustees, is responsible for establishing the operational expectations and eligibility criteria for its student transportation services.
3. The District may provide transportation for students to and from school when it is clearly indicated that such transportation is necessary due to educational objectives, distance, or safety. Administrative regulations shall be developed by the Superintendent in accordance with the following:
 - a. The objective of providing transportation shall be an effort to equalize the educational opportunities of all school-age children
 - b. Transportation may be afforded in the form of District-owned vehicles, a cash subsidy, contracted services, or subsistence allowance for residing near a public school.
 - c. Transportation vehicles owned by the District will be assigned to routes and schedules in such a manner as to accomplish the most efficient use of resources and available seating capacity. Schedules for students being transported shall be determined in light of the educational programs of the individual schools.

- d. Transportation vehicles owned by the District may be assigned to other transportation uses by the District when not conflicting with regular schedules to and from schools.
 - e. Transportation service or assistance may be denied to students failing to observe established standards of conduct on school buses.
 - f. All transportation policies shall be subject to the regulations of the State Department of Education and the laws of the state of Nevada.
 - g. No person except students, school employees, and other persons authorized in writing by the District may ride a school bus on a regular route or school-sponsored activity.
4. Standard Education Programs
- a. Students eligible for transportation to standard education programs are resident District students who are attending their zoned schools of attendance. Students eligible for standard education transportation may be provided round-trip transportation between District-designated stops and their assigned campuses.
5. Special Education and Section 504 Rehabilitation Act Programs
- a. Students eligible for transportation to special education programs are resident District students with disabilities, impairments, or both who are eligible for special education services and/or Section 504 Rehabilitation Act services and who would be unable to attend school and benefit from their special education programs of instruction without the availability of specialized transportation.
6. Bus Scheduling and Routing
- a. In accordance with applicable policies and state law, the Superintendent or designee shall allocate and assign to the schools the number of school buses sufficient to transport all eligible students to the respective schools.
7. Extra-Curricular Activities
- a. Transportation by school buses or school activity vehicles will be provided for appropriate educational experiences.
 - b. When possible, buses will be provided for activities and functions sponsored by the District.
8. Safety Standards
- a. The District shall meet or exceed the safety standards for school buses established by state and federal laws and regulations.

- b. Emergency Evacuation Training – The District shall conduct periodic, not less than twice annually, training sessions for students and teachers concerning procedures for evacuating a school bus during an emergency.
- c. Each bus operator is responsible, under the authority delegated to him or her by the school principal, for enforcing all regulations necessary to maintain discipline of transported students.
- d. Global Positioning System (GPS) - the Board of Trustees hereby adopts a policy authorizing the use of GPS systems monitoring on school buses under its control. Each school bus in the District will be provided with a GPS system that shall record whenever the bus is in operation. GPS systems are in use on school buses to promote safety, provide logistics data, and to ensure bus location at all times.
- e. Cameras on buses – The Board of Trustees authorizes the use of cameras on school buses under its control. Each school bus shall be equipped with a video and audio camera that shall record whenever the bus is in operation. Every person on the bus will be subject to video and audio surveillance. Each bus will contain a sign clearly stating that the bus has a video-audio surveillance system.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Bus" means a motor vehicle used to transport persons and designed to accommodate more than ten persons, including the driver.
2. "Passenger car" refers to a motor vehicle, other than a motor-cycle, used to transport persons and designed to accommodate ten or fewer passengers.
3. "Passenger van" means a motor vehicle, other than a motor-cycle or passenger car, used to transport persons and designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver.
4. "School activity bus" means a bus designed to accommodate more than 15 passengers, including the operator, that is owned, operated, rented, or leased by the District and is used to transport public school students on a school-related activity trip, other than on routes to and from school. The term does not include a chartered bus, a bus operated by a mass transit authority, or a school bus.
5. "School bus" means a motor vehicle that was manufactured in compliance with the federal motor vehicle safety standards for school buses in effect on the date of manufacture and that is used to transport preprimary, primary, or secondary students to and from school or on a school-related activity trip other than on routes to and from school. The term does not include a school-chartered bus or a bus operated by a mass transit authority.

6. "Motor bus" means a vehicle designed to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. To provide a safe, efficient, innovative, and professional system to transport students to and from schools and district sponsored activities.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan.
2. This policy aligns with the governing documents of the District to include:
 - a. Administrative Regulation 7545, Transportation of Students
 - b. Board Policy 7505, Use of District-Owned Vehicles, and its associated administrative regulation
 - c. Administrative Regulation 7545.2, Operation of Motor Vehicles for District Purposes
3. This policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. Chapter 392, Pupils, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 392.300 – 392.410, Transportation
4. This policy complies with federal laws and regulations, to include:
 - a. U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines related to school buses
 - b. Federal Transit Administration
 - c. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

REVIEW AND REPORTING

1. This document shall be reviewed as part of the bi-annual review and reporting process, following each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board of Trustees shall receive notification of any required changes to the policy as well as an audit of the accompanying governing documents.
2. Administrative regulations, and/or other associated documents, will be developed as necessary to implement this policy.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
8/8/1967	1.0	Adopted
2/1/1983	2.0	Revisions
1/13/1987	3.0	
5/12/1992	4.0	
11/11/1997	5.0	
5/7/2012	5.1	Changed from 3545 to 7545, under the Office of Logistics and Operations
9/22/2015	6.0	Revised: Numbering changed from 7545