

Dickson County Board of Education

Descriptor Term: **Transportation Safety**

Descriptor Code: **3.4001**

Issue Date: **August 25, 2005**

School buses shall be maintained and operated in accordance with state law and State Board Rules and Regulations.¹

All buses and other vehicles owned and operated by the Board shall be safety inspected by the assigned driver and the transportation supervisor on a regular basis. The transportation supervisor shall develop and maintain a safety inspection record which shall be filled out, and signed by the individual who conducts the inspection. Any defects noted by either the regular local or state inspection shall be remedied immediately.

All accidents, regardless of the damage involved, must be reported to the transportation supervisor. If any part of the bus rubs, scrapes, or touches any other subject, or vehicle in such a manner as to cause damage to the bus or object, an accident shall be deemed to have occurred.

SAFETY OF PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AND STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

To provide an additional measure of safety, all students assigned to special education specialty buses as part of their IEP (individual education plan) must at their final destination have a responsible person present each time the student is released from the bus. Parents of students assigned to these special education buses will be notified of the bus requirements for this transportation service to be provided.

Parents will be required to:

1. Have a responsible person present when the student is dropped-off the bus. This person must be a responsible person the parents have “designated” to the school transportation department as acceptable to receive their child.
2. Request of the transportation department in a timely manner any changes they would like to make in the transportation services provided to their child.

When a designated ~~adult~~ responsible person was not present to meet the bus the school system will:

1. First occurrence: Remind the parent in writing of the rules for riding the bus, including the procedures followed when there are repeat incidences of no responsible person being present to meet the bus.
2. Second occurrence: File a report with the Department of Children Services and notify the parents in writing of the second incident of failing to meet the bus as well as the consequences for additional incidents.
3. Third occurrence:. File a second report with the Department of Children Services and refer the parents to Crisis Intervention or similar program, if available. Additionally, notify the parents in writing of the third incident of failing to meet the bus as well as the consequences for additional incidents.
4. Fourth occurrence: Notify the Department of Children Services and File a Dependent and Neglect petition with the juvenile court.

For all students transported as part of the “Governor’s Pre-kindergarten Initiative” program the school system will provide for the safety of these students by²:

1. Maintaining an attendance roster for the pre-K children entering and exiting the bus;

¹ TCA 49-6-2101 through 2113; TRR/MS 0520-1-2-.15.

² TRR/MS 0520-12-1-.06(8)

2. Requiring the bus driver to check the bus to be certain that no child is left unattended on the school bus;
3. Having a procedure in place to meet the children at the bus and escort them to the pre-K classroom; and
4. Requiring that on the return trip from school the bus driver not leave the pre-K child until visually sighting the parent/guardian. If the responsible adult is not present, the school bus driver is to follow the process agreed upon by the local DCS office or police/sheriff's office.
5. Any three(3) year old child, participating in the preschool, must be in the proper child restraint during transport.³

For those students who are transported to school by the parents, a teacher aide or school official will meet the child at the drop-off point and note via list each child as they arrive or leave, or have the parent sign the attendance roster.

³ T.C.A. § 55-9-602(a)(2)