

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

All buses and other vehicles owned and operated by the school division are inspected for safety in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Department of Education.

All accidents, regardless of the amount of damage involved, are reported to the transportation supervisor.

Crashes involving school buses resulting in property damage of \$1,500 or more or personal injury are reported to the Virginia Department of Education at least once per month. The superintendent or superintendent's designee notifies the Virginia Department of Education of any school bus crash involving serious injuries, requiring professional medical treatment, or death within the next working day after the crash.

No person uses any wireless telecommunications device, whether handheld or otherwise, while driving a school bus, except in case of an emergency, or when the vehicle is lawfully parked and for the purposes of dispatching. Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of two-way radio devices or wireless telecommunications devices that are used hands free to allow live communication between the driver and school or public safety officials.

Adopted: August 14, 2017

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 46.2-919.1.

8 VAC 20-70-130.

8 VAC 20-70-140.

## BUSINESS AND NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

## Bus Routes: Traffic Control Plan

The supervisor of transportation shall develop a vehicular and pedestrian traffic control plan for each school site designated to minimize safety hazards. The traffic control plan shall be reviewed annually and appropriate reports made to the school board through the superintendent.

Regulatory Authority: (1987)

State Board of Education Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation Including Minimum Standards for School Buses in Virginia (Effective June 22, 1987)

On dual highways divided by a physical barrier or unpaved area, buses shall be routed so that pupils will be picked up and discharged on the side of the road on which they live.

§ 2.8. Persons operating a school bus equipped with a safety belt assembly shall wear it while on the bus. (§ 46.1-287.2 of the Code of Virginia)

§ 2.9. Pupils riding in type A school buses equipped with passenger restraint belts shall wear them while on the bus.

§ 2.10. Pupil rider safety instructions shall be included in the school curriculum, including demonstration and practices of safety procedures.

1. At the PK- 1 grade levels, initial safety training shall occur during the first week of school and additional training on a periodic basis during the year.
2. Emergency exit drills shall be practiced by all pupil riders at least twice a year, the first occurring during the first 30 instructional days.
3. A copy of bus rider safety rules shall be sent to parents at the beginning of the school year with an acknowledgement to be returned to the school principal. The information shall include a request that parents or their designee accompany their young children to and from the bus stop.

§ 2.15. School bus routes, school sites, and safety of pupils at bus stops shall be reviewed at least once a year. Bus routes shall be reviewed for safety hazards, fuel conservation, and to assure maximum use of buses. Local school administrators shall evaluate the safety of pupils at bus stops periodically and report the results annually to the school board. A written vehicular and pedestrian traffic control plan for each school site shall be developed and reviewed annually for safety hazards. All new school site plans shall include provisions which promote vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Approved by School Board: May 9, 1989  
Amended by School Board: November 4, 2002