

## **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT**

The Jefferson Davis Parish School Board shall provide to eligible students school transportation services which shall meet the objectives of safety, efficiency, adequacy, and economy. Through the use of publicly and privately owned buses, the School Board shall maintain a student transportation program that shall conform to or exceed minimum standards as set forth by pertinent statutes and the Louisiana Department of Education, as well as regulations established by the Supervisor of Transportation. It shall be unlawful for the School Board to permit the transport at one time a number of children on a school bus that exceeds the number of seats available on that bus.

All vehicles, owned by either the school district or contract bus operators, shall carry evidence of insurance and be registered, marked, and equipped according to law. Contract bus operators who purchase their own insurance shall be required to annually submit to the Supervisor of Transportation proof of proper and valid insurance coverage prior to any usage of the bus. Should any coverage aspects or insurance policy provisions change during the year, the bus operator shall notify the Supervisor of Transportation immediately.

All buses and other vehicles used primarily for the transportation of students shall be inspected by the assigned driver and the Supervisor of Transportation on a regular basis. All school vehicles shall be inspected a minimum of twice a year, once during June, July or August and certified as safe prior to the beginning of the school session, and once during December, January, or February of each school year, by an approved Louisiana Motor Vehicle Inspection Station.

To assure effectiveness of operation and safety of students, buses fifteen (15) years or older or any other school bus determined necessary shall be inspected four (4) times a year as follows:

- 1st inspection to be done July 1 - August 15 (State Inspection)
- 2nd inspection to be done October 15 - 22
- 3rd inspection to be done January 1 - 31 (State Inspection)
- 4th inspection to be done March 1 – 8

Cost of inspection shall be paid by the School Board. Cost to bring bus up to inspection standards, however, shall be paid by the bus operator.

### **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

The use of any van (cargo or passenger) in any capacity for the purpose of transporting students to and from any school-related activity shall be prohibited. However, the use of Multifunction School Activity Buses (MFSAB) is allowed for transporting students to activities. Although classified as buses, they may not be used for transporting students

between home and school bus stops.

## BUS PURCHASES

It is the policy of the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board that any used school bus purchased, or the ownership transferred, for use in the parish shall meet all statutory requirements and school district regulations. All buses so purchased shall be required to satisfactorily pass all mandated inspections prior to any usage.

School buses used to transport students, including activity and backup buses, shall not be more than twenty five (25) years old. All replacement school buses, at the time they are acquired by the owner, shall be ten (10) or less model years old. The number of years shall be reckoned from the date of introduction of the model year. This shall apply to buses purchased by veteran owners/operators, by newly hired owners/operators and by the School Board, individual schools, booster clubs, etc., for the purposes of transporting children to and from school and school-related activities and for use as spare buses.

All school buses used to transport students shall at all times be driven by operators, regular and substitute, possessing a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with proper endorsements, and having completed state-required pre-service certification training, in accordance with provisions outlined in Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures, Bulletin 119. All school bus operators, including contract bus operators, shall be required to personally operate the school bus assigned or owned, except in the case of illness or emergency. In such cases, a substitute shall be assigned by the Supervisor of Transportation.

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15-06, 2-11-10, 9-21-23.