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SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

The Jefferson Parish School Board recognizes the responsibility of school bus operators and the need for bus operators to practice extreme caution in transporting children to and from school. Therefore, the School Board shall require the implementation, maintenance, and observance of a transportation safety program.

USE OF CELLULAR TELEPHONES

The School Board authorizes the issuance of cellular telephones to all bus operators. However, no person shall engage in a call on a cellular telephone or similar device while driving a school bus. The use of cellular telephones by school bus operators may be authorized in an emergency situation involving:

1. An emergency system response operator, 911 safety dispatcher, or school administrator;
2. A hospital or emergency room;
3. A physician's office or health clinic;
4. An ambulance or fire department rescue service;
5. A fire department, fire protection district, or volunteer fire department;
6. A law enforcement agency.

USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ON SCHOOL BUSES

The Jefferson Davis School Board, in an effort to deal with student discipline problems on school buses, shall authorize the use of video surveillance equipment in school buses by school officials. The Superintendent or his designee shall be responsible for establishing pertinent regulations and procedures governing the use of any video surveillance equipment. The regulations shall assure that discipline taken as a result of the use of surveillance equipment shall be

fair, reasonable under the circumstances, and consistent with state law and Board policy.

STROBE LIGHTS

The Jefferson Davis Parish School Board requires operational strobe lights on all school buses under its jurisdiction. The safety interests of the students are best served by the use of strobe lights whenever a bus is carrying students.

Accordingly, strobe lights on all Board-owned buses will be maintained in good operating condition by the Board. Strobe lights on operator-owned buses must be maintained in good operating condition by the operator-owner at the operator-owner's expense.

Repair or replacement of non-operational strobe lights must be made as soon as possible following the malfunction of the strobe light. Operators of Board-owned buses must immediately notify the transportation director when a strobe light ceases to be operational. Operator-owners must make expedited repair or replacement of a non-operational strobe light.

Failure of any operator to carry out their responsibility under this policy may result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken against the operator in non-compliance.

DAILY TRIP INSPECTIONS

Before beginning, during, and after completing each assigned route, trip, or individual run daily, the bus operator shall conduct pre-trip, en route, and post-trip inspections of the vehicle and its special equipment to check for passengers, special equipment, medication, etc. that may have been left on the bus. Before the operator exits the bus after any trip or individual run, the operator shall immediately perform a post-trip inspection of the interior of the bus for children or other passengers that may have remained on the bus. The operator shall employ any means necessary to check for children who may be under seats. The operator shall also check for damage to seats, and articles left on the bus. Failure to check for children left on the bus may result in discipline of the operator, up to and including termination.

Revised: October, 1996

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Revised: December, 2008

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§[32:289](#), [32:398](#), [32:871](#)

[*Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures, Bulletin 119, §701, §909, §2903*](#), Louisiana
Department of Education

Board minutes, 11-16-95, 8-15-96, 4-2-00, [6-15-06](#), [2-19-09](#)

Jefferson Davis Parish School Board