

Pittsfield School District

**SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM**

The safety and welfare of student riders will be the first consideration in all matters pertaining to transportation. Safety precautions will include the following:

1. Children will be instructed as to the proper procedure for boarding and exiting from a school bus and in proper and safe conduct while aboard.
2. Emergency evacuation drills will be conducted at least two times a year to acquaint student riders with procedures in emergency situation.
3. All vehicles used to transport children will be inspected on a regular schedule to see that they meet applicable safety regulations.
4. All drivers will be screened before employment for physical condition, proper license, and experience. The prior driving record of each driver will be checked for drug and alcohol or other convictions and a criminal records check must also be completed.
5. The Board authorized use of video and/or audio surveillance on school buses to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all students while riding on school buses. Use of such surveillance will be in accordance with the spirit and provisions of Policy ECAF, as applied to school buses.
6. In the event an audio or video recording is used as part of a student discipline proceeding, such video may become part of a student's educational record. If an audio or video recording does become a part of a student's educational record, the provisions of Policy JR shall apply. The superintendent is authorized to contact the district's attorney for a full legal opinion in the event of such an occurrence.
7. The school district or independent contractor will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of school buses and will make these requirements known to bus drivers. It will also cooperate with local safety officials in formulating and accomplishing its school bus safety program.

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