

# Nord Country School

## BP3040 – Transportation Safety and Child Safety Alert System



### 1.0 Purpose

The Nord Country School Board recognizes that transporting students is a regular occurrence at the school. Student transportation is necessary for home-to-school transportation, as well as for field trips and other school activities such as sports. Such off-campus activities supplement and enrich classroom learning and encourage new interests among students. Offering such transportation ensures that all students have equal access to the education program offered at Nord Country School.

Student safety is paramount as it relates to student transportation as it is with everything the charter school elects to undertake. As such, it adopts the following policy for School personnel to follow to ensure the safe transport of pupils.

### 2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 “School bus” is defined as “any motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained for the transportation of a school pupil at or below grade 12 to or from a public school, or to or from public school activities.”
- 2.2 “School bus” does not include the following:
  - 2.2.1 A motor vehicle of any type carrying only members of the household of its owner;
  - 2.2.2 A motortruck transporting pupils who are seated only in the passenger compartment, and a passenger vehicle designed for and when actually carrying not more than 10 persons, including the driver, except any vehicle or truck transporting two or more pupils who use wheelchairs;
  - 2.2.3 Certain motor vehicles operated by a common carrier;
  - 2.2.4 A school pupil activity bus as defined in Education Code section 39830.1;
  - 2.2.5 A motor vehicle operated by a carrier licensed by the Interstate Commerce Commission that is transporting pupils on a school activity entering or returning to the state from another state or country; or
  - 2.2.6 Certain state-owned motor vehicles.

### 3.0 Pupil Loading and Unloading

- 3.1 On approach to a school bus stop where pupils are loading or unloading from a school bus, the school bus driver shall activate an approved amber warning light system beginning 200 feet before the school bus stop.

- 3.2 The school bus driver shall operate the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm, as required on the school bus, at all times when the school bus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils.
- 3.3 The amber warning light system, if applicable, flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm shall remain on until all pupils are on board the school bus and the doors are closed.
- 3.4 Pupils will only be allowed to exit or enter the school bus once the bus driver has determined that it is safe to do so.
- 3.5 Students boarding and exiting a school bus must do so in an orderly manner. The driver must ensure that all pupils have taken a seat and have securely fastened any seatbelts in the school bus before setting the school bus in motion.

#### **4.0 Pupil Escorts**

- 4.1 When a School's school bus is stopped on a highway or private road for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils, at a location where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or official traffic control signal, the school bus driver shall do the following:
  - 4.1.1 Escort all pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten and grades 1 through 8, inclusive, who need to cross the highway or private road upon which the school bus is stopped. The driver shall use an approved hand-held "STOP" sign while escorting pupils.

#### **5.0 Bus Stops**

- 5.1 Students shall load or unload the school bus only at stops designated by the Administrator, or his/her designee.
- 5.2 Students who need to cross the roadway upon which the school bus has stopped must walk in front of the school bus as they cross.
- 5.3 Before the driver may set the school bus back into motion, the driver must ensure that all pupils who have crossed the roadway have done so safely, and that all other pupils and pedestrians are a safe distance from the school bus.

#### **6.0 Mandatory Child Safety Alert System**

- 6.1 The purpose of the child safety alert system is to ensure all students exit the school bus when the transportation route comes to an end.
- 6.2 All school buses shall be equipped with a child safety alert system.
- 6.3 Upon movement of the school bus, the child safety alert system shall be automatically activated.
- 6.4 The child safety alert system shall be mounted to the rearmost portion of the interior of the vehicle and will require manual activation to turn it off.
- 6.5 Any malfunction of the child safety alert system shall be documented and retained by the operator of the vehicle for not less than two years. Documentation shall include a description of the malfunction, any repairs or adjustments made to restore correct function, and be made available for

inspection upon the request of any authorized employee of the California Highway Patrol.

- 6.6 The Administrator or a designee shall notify the Department of Motor Vehicles within five calendar days of taking disciplinary action against a driver for leaving an unsupervised pupil on a school bus and when the School determined the driver's action constituted gross negligence.

## **7.0 Procedures**

- 7.1 The Administrator or designee shall develop procedures related to the Child Safety Alert System which ensure compliance with the direction and intent of Senate Bill 1072 (Chapter 721 Statutes of 2016) as it was written and the regulations written by the California Highway Patrol.

- 7.2 The Administrator or designee shall develop procedures and a plan related to Transportation Safety which ensure the safe transport of students to or from school or school activities. The plan shall be available for review by Board Members and made available upon request to an officer of the California Highway Patrol.

## **8.0 Adoption and Review**

- 8.1 Originally Adopted: 11/20/2019
- 8.2 Most Recent Revision: 11/18/2020