

**USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES
BY BUS DRIVERS AND ATTENDANTS**

The Bonneville Joint School District No. 93 Board of Trustees believes the use of electronic communication devices by District bus drivers and attendants is important to provide instant communication regarding emergencies as well as to convey other important District information. Such devices shall not be used while a bus driver is operating a school bus or a bus attendant is on duty.

Guidelines

1. Bus drivers and bus attendants are considered on duty if there are students on the bus.
2. Drivers are prohibited from using personal or District owned electronic communication devices while operating a school bus, except:
 - a. During an emergency situation (turn the four-way hazard lights on, look for a safe place to pull the bus to the side of the road and stop, turn the engine off and remove the keys).
3. Hand-held or hands-free electronic communication devices may be used during layover time, operator rest, or break time between trips, with the vehicle parked, the vehicle's motor turned off, and the keys removed.
4. Use of a district installed two-way radio shall be allowed when used to assist a driver, attendant and/or dispatcher in the necessary communications periodically needed to safely deliver children:
 - a. home to school;
 - b. school to school;
 - c. school to home;
 - d. on activity trips; or
 - e. notification of an emergency.
5. In compliance with Federal and State student transportation laws, regulations and policies, violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to:
 - a. a three (3) day suspension without pay;
 - b. termination; and/or
 - c. civil penalties up to \$2,750.00 for drivers and driver disqualification for multiple offenses (49 CFR 392.82).

Prohibited use of an Electronic Communication Device includes:

1. Use of a hand-held electronic communication device by a driver or attendant when performing their job functions is prohibited. This includes placing or answering phone calls, listening to music, playing games, and/or typing, reading, or sending text messages, or any other uses; and/or
2. Use of Bluetooth Technology to answer or place calls or text (SMS) messages.

DEFINITIONS:

Electronic Communication Device: including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, smartphones, two-way pagers; portable internet devices, MP3 players, iPods, Bluetooth devices or any headphones or ear-buds of any type, whether hand-held or hands-free.

FMCSA: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, US Department of Transportation

Adopted 11-19-2008

Reviewed

Revised 09-12-2018

Cross Reference: Employee Use of Electronic Communication Devices #5350
Bus Driver Qualifications #8130
Bus Driver Physical Exams #8135
Criminal and Driving Record #8137
Bus Driver Training #8140
Bus Driver Responsibilities #8145
District Owned Vehicles #8165
Operation of School Buses #8170
School Bus Emergencies/Accidents #8182

Legal Reference: Idaho Code § 33-1508 Operation of School Buses
Idaho Code § 33-1509 School Bus Drivers – Definition – Qualification – Duties -
Liabilities
IDAPA 08.02.02.170 School Bus Drivers and Vehicle Operation
IDAPA 08.02.02.190 Program Operations
49 CFR 392.82 Using a hand-held mobile telephone

Handbook Reference:
Idaho's School Bus Driver Training Behind the Wheel Curriculum
Idaho Driver's Manual
Commercial Driver's Manual