



Book	Policy Book
Section	SECTION 05-SUPPORT SERVICES
Title	Copy of School Bus Emergency Situations
Code	5020
Status	draft
Adopted	August 31, 1991
Last Revised	March 26, 2013

SCHOOL BUS EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

I. Board Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Education to consider the safety and welfare of student riders as the first priority in all matters pertaining to transportation.

II. Guidelines

A. In the event a bus driver is forced to change or discontinue a route due to construction, weather conditions, an accident, or other unusual circumstances, the following steps will be taken:

1. The bus driver will immediately contact the garage and explain the situation. The driver may receive further direction.
2. Information will be released by the superintendent or designee to the media if an emergency routing situation occurs.
3. If feasible, a smaller bus or district vehicle will be dispatched to assist in transportation in an emergency situation.
4. For students in grades 6 – 12, in consultation with the transportation supervisor, or designee, the bus driver will determine whether conditions are safe for all students to walk home.
 - a. If it can be determined that a student is within walking distance (1.5 miles) of his/her home and it appears safe to do so, the student may be released by the driver to walk.
 - b. If it cannot be determined that there is a safe walking route no more than 1.5 miles, the students will be returned to their respective schools.
 - c. Students identified with significant disabilities will not be expected to walk home, but will be returned to the school.
5. Elementary students (PreK-5) will be exempted from walking. The bus driver will return these students to their respective schools.
6. When students must be returned to schools, the superintendent and the school principal, or designees, shall be contacted by the transportation personnel as soon as possible and the school principal, or designee, shall assume responsibility for ensuring that affected parents are contacted to pick up their children.
 - a. If the event takes place after school hours, the driver will contact the transportation supervisor, or designee, who will contact school personnel according to the school safety committee contact list.
 - b. The school safety committee contact list shall be submitted to the District Business Administrator and Transportation Director by the school principal prior to the first day of school of each school year.

B. In the event that a bus driver becomes concerned about the safety or welfare of a student due to medical conditions, lack of supervision after school, or other concerns, the bus driver shall consult with the transportation supervisor, or designee.

1. For safety concerns, the transportation office shall inform the principal or designee, who will notify a parent or guardian of the concerns that he or she may have so each may take the necessary steps to provide safe supervision for the child.
2. For student welfare concerns, the transportation office shall inform the principal, or designee, of the concerns and the principal, or designee, may contact the office of social services or law enforcement.
3. In the case of suspected child abuse, the employee of the district who knows or reasonably believes that a child has been abused or neglected shall immediately notify any police officer, law enforcement agency or office of the State Division of Child & Family Services.

School Board Policy 5000 – Snow Days

School Board Policy 10120 – Reporting Child Abuse

Utah Standards Book, Standard 103.2 (C) (3) (c)

[5020 School Bus Emergency Situations\[1\].pdf \(54 KB\)](#)

Last Modified by Lorie Pearce on May 4, 2018