Board Policy 8185: Use of Wireless Communication Devices by Bus Drivers

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/18/2023 | **Last Revised Date:** 10/20/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:**

While the Board of Trustees believes the use of wireless communication devices by District drivers who transport students is important to provide instant communication regarding emergencies as well as to convey other important District information, drivers shall be subject to the restrictions outlined in this policy to ensure safe use of personal or District wireless communication devices.

For the purposes of this policy, wireless communication device is defined as any device intended to facilitate communication, including but not limited to cell phones, two-way radios, walkie-talkies, palm pilots, blackberries, PDAs, beepers, pagers, etc.

Drivers shall not place or receive communications on any personally owned wireless communication device while passengers are loading or unloading from the vehicle or while the vehicle is in motion.

Under usual circumstances, use of District-owned wireless communication devices shall be allowed when used to assist a driver and/or dispatcher in the necessary communications periodically needed to safely deliver students from home to school, from school to school, from school to home, and on activity trips. A driver who transports students in a District vehicle is prohibited from operating the vehicle while using a wireless electronic device, except:

1. During an emergency situation;
2. To call for assistance if there is a mechanical breakdown or other mechanical problem;
3. Where a cellular telephone is owned by the District and used as a two-way radio; and
4. When the vehicle is parked.

Drivers may not use any wireless communications device, regardless of whether it is a hands-free device, unless there is an emergency situation. Drivers shall under no circumstances place or receive communications unrelated to District business while on duty.

Violation of this policy may subject the driver to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

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Legal References	Description
49 CFR 392.82	Wireless Communication Devices
IC § 33-1501	Transportation Authorized
IC § 33-1506	Inspection of School Authorized Vehicles
IC § 33-1509	School Bus Drivers – Definition – Qualification – Duties
IC 33-1006	Transportation Support Program

IC 33-1504	Authorized Vehicles
IC 33-1515	Requirements for Authorized Vehicles for the Transportation of Pupils to and from School and School-Related Events

Other References	**Description**
ISBA Policy Services	https://www.idsba.org/member-services/policy/