

1 Safety is of paramount concern in providing student transportation services. The [Transylvania](#)
2 [County Board of Education \(the “board”\)](#) recognizes that providing safe transportation requires
3 the cooperation of students, parents, volunteers, personnel, and other governmental agencies.
4 The superintendent or designee and all principals shall make reasonable efforts to inform
5 affected individuals or entities about safety issues and monitor compliance with legal
6 requirements and this policy.

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8 **A. STUDENT BEHAVIOR**
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10 A safe and orderly environment is critical whenever transporting students. The Code of
11 Student Conduct and board policies on student behavior apply as provided in policy
12 4300, Student Behavior Policies. All students will receive training on school bus safety
13 as required by law regardless of whether they regularly ride a school bus to and from
14 school.

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16 Violation of any board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, or other school rule
17 governing student behavior on school and activity buses may result in a student’s
18 suspension from the bus or other appropriate disciplinary action.

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20 **B. TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ASSISTANTS AND BUS MONITORS**
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22 Upon recommendation of a building principal and the superintendent, the board may
23 employ transportation safety assistants to assist bus drivers with the safety, movement,
24 management, and care of students. In addition, the superintendent or designee may
25 appoint a volunteer monitor to assist a bus driver with maintaining order and student
26 safety for any bus assigned to a school. As necessary, the superintendent or designee
27 shall designate in administrative guidelines the responsibilities of school bus
28 transportation safety assistants and bus monitors in accordance with state law.

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30 **C. MAINTENANCE**
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32 The superintendent or designee and principals shall fulfill all duties prescribed by state
33 law and regulations for maintaining, inspecting, and repairing school buses and other
34 vehicles used to transport students.

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36 **D. SAFETY PRACTICES ON SCHOOL BUSES AND ACTIVITY BUSES**
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38 In addition to any rules established by the superintendent or designee for the safe
39 operation of the student transportation services, the board expects school employees to
40 observe the following practices.

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42 1. All school bus drivers must utilize the North Carolina crossing signal to
43 communicate to students when it is safe to cross the street to board the bus and
44 when it is safe to cross the street after exiting the bus.

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2. The number of students transported on any school bus, activity bus, commercial bus, or contracted vehicle will not exceed the official rated capacity for the specific vehicle being used.
 3. All riders must be seated while the vehicle is in motion.
 4. No person will be permitted to stand or sit in the aisle or stepwell when the vehicle is in motion.
 5. All school bus drivers are expected to use good judgment in determining whether it is safe to operate a school vehicle and to permit students to enter or leave the bus at particular locations.
 6. Bus drivers must report immediately any suspected mechanical defects or other unsafe conditions, including road or traffic conditions that affect the safeness of the bus route or bus stops.

63 E. TRAINING

64 It is the responsibility of the superintendent or designee to see that:

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1. students and bus drivers receive training as required by law, including training on the use of the North Carolina crossing signal;
 2. students taking trips on activity buses or commercial buses receive safety instruction as needed, including, but not limited to, instruction on and demonstration of emergency exit operation for the vehicle on which they are riding for any specific trip; and
 3. records of student training are made as required by the State Board of Education.

77 F. ACCIDENT REPORTING

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79 The driver of any school bus or other school vehicle must report immediately to the
80 superintendent or designee any accident involving death, injury, or property.
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82 Legal References: G.S. 115C-239, -240, -245, -248, -249.1; *Preventive Maintenance and Vehicle*
83 *Replacement Manual (NC Bus Fleet Manual)*, State Board of Education Policy TCS-H-005,
84 available at www.ncbussafety.org/documents/Buses/NCBusFleetManual.pdf; State Board of
85 Education policies TCS-H-006, -011; *N.C. School Bus Handbook*, Department of Transportation,
86 Division of Motor Vehicles, available at <http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/driver/schoolbus/>
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88 Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), Authority of School Personnel
89 (policy 4301), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Disruptive
90 Behavior (policy 4315)

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92 Adopted:

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