

USE OF SCHOOL BUSES BY COMMUNITY GROUPS

The general philosophy of the Board of Education is that transportation equipment purchased by the school district is to be used primarily for school purpose and that taxpayers shall not be expected to subsidize busing equipment or personnel not necessary for school district purposes. Nor is it the intent to compete with local transportation companies. Nevertheless, it is the policy of the Board of Education to make available for use by appropriate community groups school transportation equipment to the extent that such use does not impinge upon or impair use for school district purposes.

Among community groups that qualify for the use of school transportation equipment are those composed of citizens 65 years of age and older or activities that directly relate to youth activity in Sweetwater County School District Number One. All groups shall be expected to pay the actual costs involved in the use of school transportation equipment. Examples of activities that could qualify for school-related transportation are: Senior citizens, AAU swimming, AAU wrestling, PeeWee wrestling, summer baseball, school affiliated ski clubs, and school clubs that do not normally request transportation expenses through the budget.

Nonschool use of school transportation equipment shall not be intermingled with student transportation, nor shall it interfere with:

1. Student transportation to, from, or between schools.
2. Student transportation for school activities and functions.
3. Emergency transportation for students.
4. Time required for maintenance and service of equipment.
5. Provision of standby equipment for school purposes.

The Human Resources Director with the approval of the superintendent shall be responsible for approving and scheduling in the time available the use of school district transportation equipment by community groups. In approving and scheduling such use, the official shall apply the following criteria:

1. No use shall be approved which involves travel over roads or distances which are unduly wearing or damaging to the equipment or for which the equipment construction or equipment is inappropriate.
2. Any approval of use shall be subject to cancellation in the event of adverse road, weather, or other conditions which could reasonably present a danger to passengers, drivers, or equipment or in the event of unexpected or emergency school needs.
3. Use shall be approved only where the group requesting such use submits a written request 10 days prior to the use, designating the number of riders, the dates and hours of use, the pickup and delivery points, and such other information as the associate superintendent deems appropriate.
4. Use shall not be approved if it is for partisan political activity, activity promoting or opposing any sectarian views, activity which is potentially disruptive or dangerous, activity which if uniformly extended would result in uses which would impinge upon school use or activities of a similar nature which are inappropriate for school district participation.

Any group availing itself of use pursuant to these regulations shall agree to and shall reimburse the school district for all of the expenses for operation of such motor vehicles, including the following:

1. The actual cost of salaries of drivers and other personnel involved in providing or facilitating the transportation by the nonschool group.
2. Per diem and expenses of bus driver.
3. The actual cost of fuel and oil consumed.
4. All costs resulting from vandalism occurring during the use.
5. Per mile fee to cover maintenance and wear on the bus.

Only drivers approved by the school district are allowed to drive buses.

Incidental costs such as, but not limited to, alternative transportation in the event of a breakdown, feeding and housing of users, and similar costs shall be the responsibility of the group using the equipment.

Adopted: 1977
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