

**MIDDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT #134 POLICY
AND PROCEDURE MANUAL
SECTION 8000 – Non Instructional Operations**

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER.....POLICY 8038

“Driver” means any person operating a school bus owned or operated by the District and/or District contracted bus services while transporting students to or from school or approved school activities. This includes full-time, regularly employed drivers; casual, or substitute drivers; leased drivers and independent owner-operator contractors.

The School Board will employ drivers only upon written application approved by the State Department of Education. Applicants must be over the age of eighteen (18), of good moral character, and not addicted to the use of intoxicants or narcotics. Persons or entities which provide student transportation services under contract with the district are required to supply the same information as required of school bus driver applicants.

A driver will be subject to the physical examination standards of the federal motor carrier safety regulations.

While operating a school bus, a school bus driver must, at all times, be in the possession of a current commercial driver’s license (CDL) including endorsements as specified in Idaho Code Section 49-105.

While the School Board believes the use of wireless communication devices by bus drivers is important to provide instant communication regarding emergencies as well as to convey other important District information, bus drivers shall be subject to the restrictions outlined in this policy to ensure safe use of personal, bus company or District wireless communication devices. For 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. Bus drivers shall not place or receive communications on any personally owned wireless communication device while passengers are loading or unloading from the bus or while the bus is in motion.

Under usual circumstances, use of the bus company or 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 children – home to school, school to school, school to home and on activity trips. A school bus driver is prohibited from operating a school bus while using a cellular telephone, 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 bus company or School District and it is used as a digital two-way radio, and (4) when the school bus is parked.

Bus drivers may not use hands-free devices, unless there is an emergency.

Bus drivers shall under no circumstances place or receive communications unrelated to bus company or 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 REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Sections

33-1508

33-1509

49-105

Pupil Transportation Manual, Idaho State Department of Education, revised 1996 and all subsequent revisions.

FMCSA49DFR392.82-Wirless Communication Devices

ADOPTED: 08/09/82

REVISED: 10/96

REVISED: 02/01

REVISED: 04/08/03 (Implementation July 2003)

REVISED: 02/14/06

REVISED: 08/08/11

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