

GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5310 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The purpose of school transportation is to provide safe and efficient travel for pupils who live an unreasonable walking distance from school. The Grand Island Public Schools will provide for the transportation to and from school for all students eligible under the provisions of law. Other purposes for school provided transportation may include that required for equalizing school enrollments and facilitating programs, academic field trips in direct support of the curriculum, transportation for support of co-curricular programs such as athletics, music, drama, and transportation required for special programs and activities. Laws by the State of Nebraska require such transportation to be provided for elementary students living over four miles from their attendance center and to students with disabilities whose individual education plan (IEP) requires transportation.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for implementation of all policies and regulations established by law and serves as district liaison with all 3rd party transportation contract holders. Bus drivers are responsible for procedures to ensure safe transportation of students boarding, while in-transit, and leaving the bus; properly covering the prescribed routes; and for proper care of assigned equipment. The bus para, when available, will supervise conduct and assist students and drivers boarding, in-transit, and leaving the bus. Assigned mechanics will maintain the transportation fleet and support vehicles.

Reference: Rule 91 Nebraska Pupil Transportation Guide – Revised 2.5.2020
Neb Rev. Stat. 79-609 to 79-613
Neb Rev. Stat. 79-1127, 1129, and 1130 (preschool and SPED)

See attached guidelines: 5310.1 Administrative Procedures for Transportation of Students
5310.2 Student Transportation by Taxi Service

Policy Adopted 2/7/77
Policy Revised: 6-13-02
Policy Revised: 10-9-08
Policy Revised: 1-14-10
Policy Reviewed: 08.13.2015
Policy Revised: 06.11.2020
Policy Revised: 04.08.2021
Policy Revised: 08.12.2021

GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5310.1-Administrative Procedures for Transportation of Students

1. Annually, at the beginning of each school year, the Human Resources Department will gather the names of all certified and classified district staff approved to transport students in small district owned vehicles.
2. The district will obtain and keep on file a record of satisfactory driving annually before said employee will be allowed to transport students. A *satisfactory driving record* is defined as:

The record of satisfactory driving shall require the employee to have a current Nebraska driver's license and a driving record that does not include any of the following offenses or circumstances:

 - Motor vehicle homicide;
 - Driving while under the influence of alcoholic liquor or drugs or refusal to submit to a chemical test or tests within the prior 10 years; or
 - Careless driving, reckless driving or willful reckless driving within the prior 10 years; or
 - Accumulation of 6 or more points against the employee's driver's license within the prior 4 years. In the event the employee has accumulated 3 to 5 points within the prior 4 years, the determination of whether the person has a record of satisfactory driving shall be made by the superintendent or superintendent's designee based on the nature and proximity of the offense as it relates to safe transportation.

Any employee, who fails to report a violation of driving rules and regulations that results in revocation of their driver's license, will be subject to a Class V misdemeanor and shall upon conviction, be removed from employment (Neb Statute 79-607).

3. Criminal history records will be obtained on each driver initially upon employment and updated during the calendar year that coincides with the expiration of the individual's motor vehicle operator's license (excluding certificated staff).
4. Drivers of small vehicles for activity trips will annually participate in a minimum of two hours of in-service training for all drivers that, at a minimum, include emergency evacuations, loading/unloading, student management, vehicle inspections and the Schools Safe Pupil Transportation Plan.
5. Individual staff members transporting students for school purposes in private vehicles must have the permission of the immediate supervisor, parent written or documented verbal consent, and meet all applicable requirements set by the district. Private vehicles will be used only when:
 - all other alternatives for transport, such as use of district vehicle, a cab, public transportation, or other agency support has been exhausted;
 - the staff vehicle meets applicable safety requirements, as in the need for a car seat, seat belts, etc.;
 - the driver has been approved to drive by the district;
 - proof of insurance has been supplied to the immediate supervisor;
 - the insurance satisfies the minimum coverage requirements for driving personal vehicles in the State of NE; and
 - when the parents of the students to be transported have given written permission or documented verbal consent to the immediate supervisor.
6. The school district assumes no responsibility for those students who have not received the approval of the immediate supervisor, and who ride in private vehicles for school

GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

purposes. The district strongly requests that staff review all other alternatives for transport, such as a district vehicle, a cab, public transportation, or other agency support.

Guidelines Updated: 06.11.2020

GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5310.2 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION BY TAXI SERVICE

The purpose of district transportation is to provide safe and efficient travel for pupils who live an unreasonable walking distance from school. Students who are identified homeless often have the need for transportation from their current living space. GIPS provides taxi vouchers for students identified as homeless or in need of transportation due to a health condition and not able to ride a bus. The district contracts with a local taxi service as needed.

Safety Protocols for Taxi Transportation

The taxi company will:

- perform background checks on all cab drivers - the background checks performed include: sex offender, state and national checks.
- ensure the student is seat belted at all times.
- make sure a parent/guardian is home before leaving the student.
- require a student ride in a booster seat, if a booster seat is not available the Families in Transition (FIT) Coordinator will arrange for a seat with the parent/guardian.
- ensure that each taxi driver will have a valid driver's license.

Student Conduct

Students will conduct themselves in the same manner as they are expected to in the classroom and on buses. Please refer to 5312.1-Student Conduct on School Buses Contract for more information. If students violate this code of conduct, the taxi company will contact the Families in Transition Coordinator, who will contact the appropriate administrators.

First Violation - warning by driver and a call made to FIT Coordinator

Second Violation - loss of vouchers for one week

Third violation - loss of vouchers for the remainder of the year.

If the student loses privileges to use the taxi service, alternate transportation will need to be made between the parent/guardian and the FIT Coordinator in conjunction with the school social worker.

Guidelines Updated: 08.12.2021