

## **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION Telluride School District**

### **Policy Statement**

The Telluride School District will provide safe and comfortable transportation to eligible students in the District in accordance with the Colorado State Law and the Colorado Department of Education School Bus Transportation Policy.

### **Rationale**

The Telluride School Board recognizes that Student Transportation to and from school and extra curriculum activities is necessary due to the geography and demographics of the district. The School Board will ensure that transportation is scheduled in such a way that the best educational interests of the students are served.

The district shall operate its own fleet of buses and other types of vehicles as needed. Students will be transported in buses, with exceptions only as outlined in the field trip policy. (File: EEAFa)

### **Scope**

This policy governs all regular and special student transportation, including contracted and Board owned systems within the Telluride School District.

### **Procedures and Responsibilities:**

#### **A. Administration**

General responsibility for the transportation system is vested in the Executive Director of Administration. All other people engaged in the transportation program are responsible to that administrator. Pick-up points shall be determined by the Executive Director of Administration. Parents shall be responsible for transporting their students to and from the pick up points. Additional bus routes will be subject to school board approval.

#### **B. Eligibility/Route Design**

1. The District will provide transportation to pupils in accordance with the Colorado Department of Education School Bus Transportation Policy.
2. The District will provide transportation to pupils who:

- a) reside outside of a one (1) mile radius or greater from the Telluride Elementary School.
  - b) are certified by a qualified medical professional as being unable to use a public transportation system or the regular transportation system because of a physical or cognitive disability, in compliance with the Department of Education Special Needs Transportation Guidelines.
  - c) reside within one (1) mile of the Telluride Elementary School, and whose parents as a result of a physical disability are unable to transport their children or otherwise accompany their children to school.
3. The number of stops is limited to not more than one (1) stop per mile for the purpose of taking on or discharging pupils unless large population pools are being served. The safety of the stop for pupil's boarding/disembarking as well as traffic queuing is a factor in determining the location of the bus stop.
  4. In establishing routes for pupil transportation every effort will be made to remain on the main streets to minimize travel time and maximize safety precautions for all students. Issues such as safety, distance, time considerations, road conditions, snow clearing, and adequate turnarounds are the guiding principles in the determination of routes or changes to routes/stops.
  5. Route changes or modifications may be made at any time provided they are consistent with this policy, and do not cause scheduling issues. Parents and students must be notified in advance of changes, except in emergency situations. Any route changes must be approved by the Executive Director of Administration in consultation with district administration.

### ***C. Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians***

1. Parents/guardians are encouraged to support school staff and bus drivers to ensure the safety of their children by reviewing and discussing the school bus rules with their child(ren) in an effort to encourage them to assume responsibility for good school bus conduct.

### ***D. Responsibilities and Expectations of Students***

1. Riding on a school bus is considered to be an extension of the school. Students are expected to behave on the school bus as they would in the school and, therefore, the school principal will deal with any unacceptable behavior. Improper conduct may result in the withdrawal or suspension from the bus. Reinstatement will be at the discretion of the school principal (or designate) after consultation with the Executive Director of Administration and the student and parents/guardians.

### ***E. Principals' Responsibilities***

1. The Principal plays a very important role in student transportation. The principal is responsible for overseeing the implementation and guiding principles dealing with District policy.

### ***F. Responsibilities of the School Bus Driver:***

1. The bus driver's number one responsibility is to transport students safely to and from school and extra curricular programs. The bus driver is also responsible for maintaining order and proper behavior on the bus, and for compliance with all policies and rules of the District as applicable.

**Revised and Adopted:** January 23, 2006

#### LEGAL REFS.:

- C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(a) (*hold real property in name of district*)
- C.R.S. 22-32-113 (*transportation of pupils and imposition of fee for excess transportation costs*)
- C.R.S. 22-32-114 (*transportation by parents of own children*)
- C.R.S. 22-51-101 *et seq.* (*Public School Transportation Fund*)
- 20 U.S.C. 1116 (*choice options contained in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*)

#### CROSS REFS.:

- DEA, Fund From Local Tax Services
- EEA, subcodes, (all subcodes relating to the district's transportation program)
- EFC, Free and Reduced Price Food Services
- JFBA, Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment
- JQ, Student Fees, Fines and Charges
- LBD\*-R, Relations with District Charter Schools

**[Revised July 2005]**