

*****DRAFT - NOT FOR FILING*****

3301-83-13 School bus routes and stops.

(A) Designation of school bus stops

(1) ~~It is shall~~ be the responsibility of the superintendent or designee to determine the location of all school bus stops ~~to which shall~~ be approved annually by the districts' board of education. Authority to designate or relocate subsequent school bus stops may be delegated by the board of education to the superintendent or designee. Bus stops and a time schedule ~~will shall~~ be adopted and put in force by the board not earlier than thirty days prior to and not later than ~~ten thirty~~ days after the beginning of the school term.

(2) Districts will comply with section 3327.016 of the Revised Code for eligible student riders who are enrolled in a community or chartered nonpublic school.

Commented [FH1]: The rule has been updated according to SB 9 (134th GA)'s requirement that restrictive regulatory language be removed.

(B) School bus stop location

Policies and procedures ~~will shall~~ be developed by administrators and transportation personnel to ensure school bus stop locations are designated in safe locations and ~~will shall~~ include the following:

- (1) Pupils in grades kindergarten through eight may ~~be required to~~ walk up to not more than one-half mile to a designated bus stop.
- (2) School bus stop locations ~~will shall~~ provide for the maximum safety of pupils giving consideration to distance from residence, traffic volume, physical characteristics, residences of persons on the state registry of sex offenders and child-victim offenders established under section 2950.13 of the Revised Code, and visibility and weather conditions.
- (3) School bus stops ~~shall will~~ be established on the residence side of all four-lane highways and on the residence side of other roadways posing potential hazards to students as determined by school bus owners.
- (4) School bus stops ~~will shall~~ be located at a distance from the crest of a hill or curve to allow motorists traveling at the posted speed to stop within the sight distance. If the line of sight is less than five hundred feet in either direction, a request ~~will shall~~ be submitted to the appropriate authority to install an approved "school bus stop ahead" sign at least five hundred feet in advance of the school bus stop.
- (5) Each pupil ~~will shall~~ be assigned ~~and required~~ to use a specific school bus stop except in unusual circumstances as approved by the school bus owner or designee.
- (6) Each pupil ~~will shall~~ be assigned a designated place of safety on the residence side of the roadway on which the vehicle is scheduled to stop. ~~The D~~river ~~will must~~ account for each pupil at ~~the~~ designated place of safety before leaving. Pupils are not to proceed to their residence until the school bus has departed.
- (7) The school bus driver ~~will shall~~ use the established route and make stops only at points designated by the school vehicle owner or the administrator who is authorized to designate such stops. School districts and community schools offering pupil transportation ~~will shall~~ have a documented routing plan in place for all established routes.
- (8) The school bus driver ~~will shall~~ operate the bus on the time schedule for the established route and ~~shall~~ wait for pupils if ahead of schedule.

Commented [FH2]: Language is added to cross-reference R.C. 3327.016, which requires districts to develop a transportation plan, that includes transportation routes, and provide the plan to the community or chartered nonpublic school within the timeframes established in that statute.

Commented [FH3]: Language is added to ensure that in selecting the location of bus stops, districts consider the proximity to registered sex and child-victim offenders listed on the public registry.

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(9) The superintendent or designee is to communicate changes to bus stop locations and drop off/pick up times to parents or guardians of pupils impacted by the changes as soon as practicable in order to ensure pupil safety and timely transportation to school.

(C) School bus stop procedures

School bus drivers are subject to school bus stop and safety procedures set forth in section 4511.75 of the Revised Code and rule 3301-83-12 of the Administrative Code. ~~All school districts and bus owners shall develop policies and procedures for drivers making school bus stops for purposes of loading or unloading pupils in accordance with section 4511.75 of the Revised Code and with procedures described in the Ohio preservice driver training manual. The following shall be included in those policies and procedures:~~

- ~~(1) Student warning lights shall be activated approximately three hundred feet prior to a stop whenever practical. A strobe light may be used if available and if conditions warrant.~~
- ~~(2) The bus shall be stopped near the right side of the paved or traveled portion of the roadway.~~
- ~~(3) The bus shall be stopped along the drive way entrance or along the curb when picking up or discharging passengers with special needs which require the use of special equipment.~~
- ~~(4) The parking brake shall be set at all stops whenever pupils are loading or unloading.
Operators of vehicles equipped with an approved brake interlock device are exempt from these requirements to set the parking brake~~
- ~~(5) The transmission shall be placed into the neutral gear for both manual and automatic transmissions.~~
- ~~(6) The driver must use an approved hand signal and eye contact with students outside the bus at any stop where students are in the process of loading and unloading.~~

(D) Each bus will ~~shall~~ have a detailed route sheet on board which will ~~shall~~ include the following:

- (1) Direction to designated stops;
- (2) Time schedule;
- (3) Designated stop;
- (4) Driver-designated place of safety;
- (5) Number of riders at each stop location and residence side; and
- (6) List identifying road hazards.

(E) If practical, each route ~~shall~~ will have a responsible student designated to assist a substitute bus driver with each route.

(F) School districts will conduct safety audits of their bus routes, bus stops, and school pick-up/drop off sites on school property, not less than annually, to reduce safety risks and mitigate the severity of school bus accidents. Safety audits include an examination of:

- (1) Left turns, to determine whether route adjustments can be made to avoid crossing oncoming lanes of

Commented [FH4]: The content of this paragraph overlaps with and/or is duplicative of content in R.C. 4511.75, and/or rule 3301-83-12 (A) (safety procedures / school bus stop procedures), and has been moved to that rule.

Commented [FH5]: Language is added consistent with the Ohio School Bus Safety Working Group Report (January 2024), Recommendation #13.

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traffic;

(2) Structural components of bus routes that can impact bus safety such as high speed limits, traffic congestion, areas of low visibility, and areas with steep drop-offs adjacent to the roadway;

(3) School bus stops, to minimize school bus stops that necessitate students crossing a roadway;

(4) The efficiency of individual bus routes.