

Rule 6A-3.0121 is amended to read:

6A-3.0121 Responsibility of School District and Parents or Guardians for Students with ~~Special Transportation Needs~~ Who Are Transported at Public Expense.

(1) The school district shall determine what safety measures shall be used in the transportation of students ~~with special transportation needs, as defined in Sections 236.083(1)(b), (c), and (f), Florida Statutes, including the method of securement or positioning of the student.~~ Such safety measures shall include the designation of routes ~~roads~~, bus turning areas, and student stop locations which shall not be left to the discretion of the bus operator ~~driver~~ or the parents or guardians of the students. The district shall provide belt cutters meeting Florida School Bus Specifications on any school bus equipped with passenger securement or restraint straps. The district shall determine the method of securement or positioning of students with special needs.

(2) The school district shall exercise additional specific powers and responsibilities as follows:

(a)~~(2)~~ The district shall provide bus operators ~~drivers~~ and attendants instructions, in writing, as to any special conditions or non-medical care which a student may need while on the bus.

(b) The district shall instruct bus operators, and attendants if used, in their responsibilities for students who are transported at public expense as follow:

~~(3) School transportation shall not be provided for students with special transportation needs when parents of such students fail to assume their responsibilities as defined by district policy which shall address appropriate supervision at the bus stop.~~

~~(4) Responsibility of the school bus driver and attendants, if used, for students~~

~~with special transportation needs who are transported at public expense:~~

~~1.(a)~~ The operator driver or attendant of a bus transporting students ~~with special transportation needs~~ shall remain with the bus so that students aboard will be under supervision at all times, except to call for assistance in case of an emergency or accident involving the students or bus.

~~2.(b)~~ In cases where a student with physical disabilities is unable to leave the area of a student stop without assistance, the school bus operator driver shall not assume responsibility for such assistance except in an emergency which threatens the safety of such student or students.

~~3.(c)~~ The operator driver and attendant shall be provided training related to students ~~with special transportation needs while being transported~~; however, the operator driver and attendant shall not give medicine and shall limit his other assistance to that which may normally be expected of a reasonable, prudent person or as specified in the student's Individual Educational Plan.

(c) The district shall inform parents, guardians, and students at least annually in writing of their responsibilities and related district policies as follow:

1. To ensure the safe travel of their students during the portions of each trip to and from school and home when the students are not under the custody and control of the school district, including during each trip to and from home and the assigned bus stop when the school district provides bus transportation.

2. To ensure that students ride only in their assigned school buses and get off only at assigned bus stops, except when the district has approved alternative buses or arrangements.

3. To ensure students are aware of and follow the district's adopted code of student conduct while the students are at school bus stops and to provide necessary supervision during times when the bus is not present.

4. To ensure that, when the physical disability of the student renders the student unable to get on and off the bus without assistance, the parent or guardian provides the necessary assistance to help the student get on and off at the bus stop, as required by district policy or the student's individual educational plan.

~~(5) Responsibilities of parents of students with special transportation needs transported at public expense:~~

~~(a) Parents shall provide the necessary assistance and protection for their children while enroute to and from the school bus stop and comply with the school bus schedule. Parents shall provide the necessary supervision of such child at the bus stop in accordance with district policy.~~

~~(b) In cases where the physical impairment of a student renders the student unable to get on and off the bus without assistance, parents shall provide the necessary assistance for helping their student get on and off at the bus stop if required by district policy.~~

~~(3)(6)~~ Knowledge, skills and abilities related to student management techniques and characteristics of the students with special transportation needs shall be considered when selecting or assigning operators ~~drivers~~ and attendants for routes serving the students.

Specific Authority 1001.02 FS. Law Implemented 1001.02, 1001.42(4)(l), 1003.21(1)(e), 1006.21 FS. History—New 3-26-66, Amended 9-17-72, Repromulgated 12-5-74,

Formerly 6A-3.121, Amended 11-15-94.