

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-601. Standards for Utah School Buses and Operations.**

3 ~~**R277-601-1. Definitions.**~~

4 ~~—— A. "Board" means the Utah State Board of Education.~~

5 ~~—— B. "Local board" means the local school board of education.]~~

6 **R277-601-~~2~~1. Authority and Purpose.**

7 [A.](1) This rule is authorized by:

8 (a) Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3, which vests general control and
9 supervision of the public education in the Board;

10 (b) Subsection 53E-3-401(4), which allows the Board to adopt rules in accordance
11 with its responsibilities; and

12 (c) Subsection 53E-3-501(1)(d), which directs the Board to adopt rules for state
13 reimbursed bus routes, bus safety and operational requirements, and other transportation
14 needs.

15 [B.](2) The purpose of this rule is to specify standards for state student
16 transportation funds, school buses, and school bus drivers utilized by school districts.

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18 **R277-601-~~3~~2. ~~[Standards]~~Required Use of Standards Manual Incorporation By
19 Reference.**

20 ~~[A. The local board and school district shall act consistent with the manual entitled~~
21 ~~STANDARDS FOR UTAH SCHOOL BUSES AND OPERATIONS, 2010, which includes~~
22 ~~information received from Utah school districts, the Utah Transportation Commission, and~~
23 ~~the Utah Department of Public Safety and is available at each department or agency.]~~

24 (1) This rule incorporates by reference the Standards for Utah School Buses and
25 Operations Manual, December, 2018 Edition, which contains the standards for new and
26 used school buses, operation requirements for school bus operators, and procedures
27 for passenger safety.

28 (2) A copy of the current Utah School Buses and Operations Manual is located:

- 29 (a) _____ at
30 <https://www.schools.utah.gov/File/2f934a74-4cbf-4473-ba60-8912a07ae640>;
31 (b) at the Utah State Board of Education - 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City,
32 Utah 84111; and
33 (c) on the agency websites of the following state agencies:
34 (i) on the Utah Transportation Commission; and
35 (ii) on the Utah Department of Public Safety.
36

37 **R277-601-3. Additional Required Standards.**

38 In addition to t~~he~~ ~~[STANDARDS]~~Standards For Utah School Buses and
39 Operations manual, an LEA shall ~~[include]~~enforce the following:

40 (1) a school bus operator's primary responsibility, consistent with training and
41 policy, is always the safety of passengers and the safety of the public.

42 (2) a school bus operator's proper use of ~~[E]~~electronic and telecommunications
43 devices including:

44 ~~[(a) A school bus operator's primary responsibility, consistent with training and~~
45 ~~policy, is the safety of passengers and the safety of the public at all times.]~~

46 ~~[(b)a~~ [A school bus operator shall not]a prohibition on the use of a cell phone,
47 wireless electronic device, or any headset, earpiece, earphones or other equipment that
48 might distract a school bus operator~~[driver from his responsibilities]~~, whether hand held or
49 not, while the school bus is in motion and not appropriately parked or secured~~;~~];

50 (b) the prohibition described in subsection (2)(a) ~~[This prohibition]~~ does not apply to
51 the safe and appropriate use of two-way radios or to mounted~~;~~ GPS systems~~;~~];

52 (c) an LEA ~~[All school districts and public schools]~~ that regularly transports students
53 shall maintain documentation of training for a school bus operator~~[drivers]~~ and employees
54 in the safe and appropriate use of two-way radios~~;~~; and

55 ~~[(e)d~~ [Once the bus is stopped and safely parked,] a school bus operator may use
56 an electronic device once the bus is stopped and safely parked for;

- 57 (i) emergencies[;];
58 (ii) to assist special needs students[;];
59 (iii) for behavior management[;];
60 (iv) for appropriate assistance for field/activity trips; ~~[or]~~
61 (v) for other business-related issues[;]; or
62 (vi) personal use if all passengers are safely off the bus and at a safe distance.

63 ~~[(d) A school bus operator may use an electronic device for personal use once a~~
64 ~~school bus is safely parked, appropriately secured and all passengers are safely off and at~~
65 ~~a safe distance from the bus, consistent with school district policy.]~~

66 ~~(e)~~³ A ~~ny~~ violation of ~~[these provisions]~~this section for emergency or compelling
67 reasons may require documentation and will be addressed by the employing education
68 entity.

69 ~~(f)~~⁴ Violations of ~~[these provisions]~~this section may result in personnel action(s)
70 against the school bus operator consistent with ~~[school district/employer]~~an LEA's policies.

71 ~~(g)~~⁵ A ~~[P]~~private contractor[s] employed by ~~[school districts]~~an LEA for student
72 transportation shall ~~[-also]~~ adhere strictly to ~~[these provisions]~~this section in addition to the
73 policies of the employer.

74 ~~(2)~~⁶ A school bus operator's e~~[E]~~nd of bus route inspection shall include the
75 following:

76 (a) ~~[A]~~at the end of a student delivery, both during the day and after the final route
77 of the day, a school bus operator shall:

- 78 (i) complete the delivery[;];
79 (ii) stop and park the bus[;]; and
80 (iii) insure that all students are off the bus[;];

81 (b) ~~[W]~~where possible, [this inspection shall] be completed at each school site
82 when delivering students to school[;];

83 (c) ~~[F]~~following each from-school route of the day, the bus operator shall complete
84 the same type of inspection described in subsection (6)(a) at a safe location a short

85 distance from where the final student(s) left the bus~~[-]; and~~
86 (d) [if [children]a student is [are-]found on the bus, [they]the student shall be
87 immediately returned to [their]the student's assigned bus stop location or to an alternate
88 location, consistent with [district]an LEA's policy, with express permission from the
89 parent[s(s)].

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91 **KEY: school, buses, school transportation**

92 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: ~~[June 9, 2014]~~**

93 **Notice of Continuation: March 29, 2019**

94 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-501(1)(d);**

95 **53E-3-401(3)**