



School Bus and Transportation Policy

Policy Number: 5302

I. Purpose

Summit Academy is not legally obligated to provide regular transportation to and from campus for its students. However, Summit Academy elects to provide transportation to students for the convenience of its stakeholders, to facilitate educational opportunities, and to provide safe transportation for sporting events and activities. This policy is in place to ensure that student transportation services are done in a safe manner and in compliance with federal and state laws. **(Utah Codes 41-6a-12 and 76-10-15, Utah Administrative Rules R909-3, R277-600, and R277-601).**

II. Definitions

- A. “Common Carrier” is a commercial enterprise that transports passengers for a fee and establishes that their service is open to the general public.
- B. “School Bus” is a vehicle designed to transport students which meets the standards under **49 USC Section §30101, et seq.**
- C. “Non-CMV Vehicle” is a vehicle which does not require a commercial driver’s license to operate and does not meet any of the definitions for a commercial motor vehicle in **49 CFR 390.5.**

III. Policy

A. Federal and State Compliance

Summit Academy will follow all federal and Utah laws regarding school bus and commercial motor vehicles, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Driver hiring and qualifications **(49 CFR Parts 390 and 391)**
- b. Driver drug and alcohol screening **(49 CFR Parts 40 and 382)**
- c. School bus standards and specifications **(Utah Code 41-6a-13)**

B. Driver Use of Electronics (R277-601-3)

A school bus operator is primarily responsible for the safe operation of the bus. School bus drivers may never use any type of electronic or telecommunication device while operating a bus, including:

- a. The use of a cell phone;
- b. wireless electronic device;
- c. any headset, earpiece, earphones;
- d. or any other equipment that might distract the driver.

A school bus driver may use an electronic device once the bus is stopped and safely secured for:

- a. emergencies;
- b. to assist special needs students;
- c. for behavior management;
- d. for appropriate assistance for field/activity trips;
- e. for other business-related issues; or



f. personal use if all passengers are safely off the bus and at a safe distance.

C. Post Trip Inspections (53G-7-2)

All school bus drivers are responsible to conduct end of bus route inspection to see that all students are off the bus. This inspection must include the entire length of the interior of the school bus. This inspection will be completed following any bus route, sporting event, or field trip.

Violating of the above provision may result in personnel action and employee discipline consistent with LEA policies.

D. Advertising on School Buses (41-6a-1308)

Summit Academy allows buses to be used for advertising if the advertisement meets Utah code and supports the vision of the LEA. Advertisements shall:

- a. Be age appropriate.
- b. Not promote any substance or activity that is illegal for minors, such as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or gambling.
- c. Not promote any political party, candidate or issue.
- d. Not promote sexual material of any kind.
- e. Not promote any religious organization.

Advertising shall be administered with student safety as the primary focus. Advertising:

- a. Shall not, as stated in **Utah State Motor Carrier Rule 909 and 909-3**, be placed on the front or the back of the bus.
- b. Will not cover, obscure or interfere with the operation of any required lighting, reflective tape, emergency exits or any other safety equipment.
- c. Will be located no closer than 6" to any required markings, lighting, or other required safety equipment.
- d. Shall not resemble a traffic control device.
- e. Shall not be illuminated or constructed of reflective material.

E. Prohibition of Vehicles (UCA 53-8-211.5)

No vehicle designed to carry 11 or more passengers, including the driver, may be used to transport students to and from school, or activities, unless the vehicle meets all federal and state standards of a school bus. This does not apply to a vehicle operated by a common carrier if the common carrier is not exclusively engaged in the transportation of students.

F. Non-CMV Vehicles Owned by Summit Academy

Non-school bus vehicles owned or leased by the LEA may only be driven by Summit Academy Employees who meet the following requirements:

- a. The driver has been granted permission from a school administrator.
- b. The driver is at least 21 years old.
- c. The driver has a current license and has at least one year of driving history.
- d. The driver has completed driver training in the following areas:
 - a. Defensive Driving
 - b. Distracted Driving
 - c. Driving in Adverse Weather Conditions
 - d. Electronic Use While Driving
- e. The driver meets the following criteria as determined through an official inquiry of a motor vehicle report:



- a. The driver has no Type A violations in the past 3 years (DUI, Reckless Driving, Negligent Homicide, Operating Without a License, Hit & Run, Leaving the Scene, Use of a Vehicle in the Commission of a Felony, Racing, speed in Excess of 25 MPH Above the Posted Limit)
- b. The Driver has had no more than two accidents, or Type B or C violations in the past 3 years (Moving Violations, Speeding< Improper Lane Change, Failure to Yield, Red Light or Stop Sign Violations)
- f. The driver has been added to the Summit Academy insurance policy.

IV. References

Utah Code 41-6a-12
Utah Code 41-6a-1308
Utah Code 76-10-15
Utah Code 53G-7-2
Utah Code 53-8-211.5
Utah R909-3
Utah R277-600
Utah R277-601
Utah R277-601-3

V. Attachments

None

VI. Revision History and Approval Date

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Date of Approval