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#95106

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

As required by The Public Schools Act, the school board shall ensure that at least twice in each school year each pupil is instructed in safe school bus riding practices and participates in emergency school bus evacuation drills which shall be conducted at least once during the Fall and at least once during the Spring of each school year.

Students with special needs often require additional or more specific training beyond what is provided for other students. The principal, with the assistance of school staff, shall ensure that each student understands the evacuation procedures. Students shall be instructed to function within individual capabilities in the event of an evacuation.

Further, in order to ensure the earliest possible bus safety training for kindergarten students and other first-time bus riders, principals shall annually conduct a preliminary bus safety program, especially as it relates to embarking and disembarking procedures, within the first five days of school. (The complete training session with the emergency evacuation drill would follow as scheduled by the Supervisor, Transportation, in compliance with the time period noted in Paragraph 1.)

In addition Principals will ensure that a teacher in Grades 1-3 develop and teach two lessons based on A Teacher Resource for School Bus Ridership Education published by Manitoba Education. These lessons will cover the course scope including danger zones, walking near and evacuating the bus, the arrival of the bus, riding the bus, crossing to and from the bus and safety plans.

The Supervisor, Transportation will review Bus Ridership learning objectives and teaching materials periodically to ensure that the most timely and effective package is delivered to students. New materials will be reviewed prior to implementation.

Drivers shall be trained to evacuate all passengers through all exits with or without the lift. Students with special needs who require specialized procedures for emergency evacuation shall be included in School Bus Ridership Education and emergency school bus evacuation drills.

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Transportation safety procedures will include the following measures:

- School principals will encourage parents to take an active role in the training of their children with regards to safe travel to and from their bus stop locations and appropriate behavior and safety practices both at the bus stop and while on board. Schools will provide parents with appropriate educational materials on street proofing and bus safety as well as periodic reminders of safe practices through newsletters and other communication sources. Full advantage will be taken of special occasions such as Bus Safety Week to promote safe habits by students and involve parents in the student transportation process.
- Bus monitors will be used during the first week of busing whenever possible on all Early Years' school runs. The Transportation Department and schools will work together to arrange for and schedule volunteer monitors. Schools will advertise for volunteers during the spring registration period.
- School principals will make appropriate arrangements for supervision of transported students at their school to ensure they disembark and load in a safe and orderly manner, so that they board the correct bus.
- School principals will ensure there is a follow up, in collaboration with the Transportation department, on any traffic concerns reported to the school that affect student safety.

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