

## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM

The Terrebonne Parish School Board recognizes the responsibility of school bus operators and the need for bus operators to practice extreme caution in transporting children to and from school. Therefore, the School Board shall require the implementation, maintenance, and observance of a transportation safety program.

### VIDEO EQUIPMENT ON SCHOOL BUSES

As a means to help ensure safety and proper conduct on School Board-owned and/or contracted school buses, it shall be the policy of the Board that video surveillance equipment be allowed and/or required when such equipment is requested and approved by the Supervisor of Transportation, and operated under rules and regulations established by the Superintendent.

The purchase and installation of such equipment shall be the responsibility of the Board for Board-owned buses, or of the contract operators for their buses. Ownership of the equipment, including the housing thereof, shall remain with the Board or contract operator. Strict adherence to laws and rules of confidentiality shall be maintained in the viewing of tapes and use of equipment to assure compliance with laws and regulations regarding the privacy rights of students and employees.

### USE OF CELLULAR TELEPHONES

The School Board may authorize the issuance of cellular telephones to all bus operators. However, no person shall engage in a call on a cellular telephone or similar device while driving a school bus. The use of cellular telephones by school bus operators may be authorized in an emergency situation involving:

1. An emergency system response operator, 911 safety dispatcher, or school administrator;
2. A hospital or emergency room;
3. A physician's office or health clinic;
4. An ambulance or fire department rescue service;
5. A fire department, fire protection district, or volunteer fire department;
6. A law enforcement agency.

New Policy: March 2009

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§32:289, 32:398, 32:871; School Transportation Handbook, Bulletin 1191, Minimum Standards for School Buses, Bulletin 1213, Operational and Vehicle Maintenance Procedures, Bulletin 1475, Louisiana Department of Education; Board minutes, 3-17-09, Forethought wd. Revisions 1-29-18.