

Board Policy 8185

POLICY TITLE: Use of Wireless Communication Devices by Bus Drivers

While the Board of Trustees believes the use of wireless communication devices by District bus drivers who transport students is important to provide instant communication regarding emergencies as well as to convey other important District information, bus drivers shall be subject to the restrictions outlined in this policy to ensure safe use of personal or District wireless communication devices.

For the purposes of this policy, wireless communication device is defined as any device intended to facilitate communication, including but not limited to cell phones, two-way radios, walkie-talkies, palm pilots, blackberries, PDAs, beepers, pagers, etc.

Bus Drivers shall not place or receive communications on any personally owned wireless communication device while passengers are loading or unloading from the vehicle bus or while the vehicle bus is in motion.

Under usual circumstances, use of District-owned wireless communication devices shall be allowed when used to assist a driver and/or dispatcher in the necessary communications periodically needed to safely deliver students children from home to school, from school to school, from school to home, and on activity trips. A school bus driver who transports students in a District vehicle is prohibited from operating the vehicle school bus while using a wireless electronic device cellular telephone, except:

1. During an emergency situation;
2. To call for assistance if there is a mechanical breakdown or other mechanical problem;
3. Where a cellular telephone is owned by the District and used as a two-way radio; and
4. When the vehicle school bus is parked.

Bus Drivers may not use any wireless communications device, regardless of whether it is a hands-free device, unless there is an emergency situation. Bus Drivers shall under no circumstances place or receive communications unrelated to District business while on duty.

Violation of this policy may subject the driver to disciplinary action up to and including termination.