The use of wireless communication devices by school transportation vehicle operators is important to provide instant communication regarding emergencies as well as to convey other important information. At the same time, inappropriate use of such devices compromises safe operation of vehicles. Thus, vehicleoperators shall be subject to the following restrictions to ensure safe use.

For purposes of this policy, wireless communication device is defined as any device that permits communication with persons at locations remote from the vehicle, whether by wireless voice, text or numerical message, or otherwise, including but not limited to cell phones, two-way radios, walkie talkies, PDAs, beepers, pagers, tablet computers, or any similar device.

Under usual circumstances, use of school owned wireless communication devices shall be allowed only to assist a vehicle operator and/or dispatcher in the necessary communications periodically needed to safely deliver students to and from school and on activity trips. Use of such devices while the vehicle is in motion shall be limited whenever possible.

The following communication activities are prohibited:

1. Vehicle operators shall not place or receive communication on any personally owned wireless communication device while passengers are loading or unloading from the bus or while the bus is in motion.
2. Vehicle operators shall under no circumstances place or receive communications unrelated to school business while on duty.
3. Text messaging or use of any communication device or method requiring manual entry while driving is prohibited.

Violation of this policy may subject the vehicle operator to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Adopted: 9-28-13

LEGAL REFS: 1 CCR 301-26,

Rule 4204-R-232.00;

C.R.S. 42-4-239 (using a wireless telephone for text messaging while driving is prohibited)

Reviewed: 9.16.16