

TWEAK
Subcommittee: Alternative Transportation findings
By Jenny Lindner

I. Liability

Student insurance packet is offered to parents to purchase every year, which is supplemental insurance. Hopefully, students have primary insurance. Fairfax County practices risk management, thus there is no insurance policy on school system.

Transportation vehicle standards are set out by NHTSA. This has a profound impact upon the out-sourcing of transportation. For example, they have to be able to take so much impact; there must be so much steel, paneling, and lights in certain places.

Parents can sue on anything – limited immunity - any one can sue – but the burden of proof of course is upon the plaintiff!

II. Documentation/guidelines

All guide lines are posted on FCPS net, which is known as the blue book regulations.

Division counsel works on policies notices, regulations. The regulations are all listed in a topical index under the FCPS Net. There are policies, notices and regulations

Legal liability – there is a fact sheet on liability – Insurance fact sheet
Field trips – notice 8-22-2005 Liability is blue book policy regulation 5705-5710. Ms. Anne Murphy – division counsel – in the Gatehouse – Attorneys that we contract services with firms with employee relations and firms that has dealt with special education.

Risk management – updated - July 26, 2002 # 5705. 5710 –

Property and Casualty Coverage and bonds

Vehicle operations 5710.2 updated April 10, 2003

Facilities I Regulation 8424 – use and community use of facilities. Reviewed – 8/30/07

Legal codes –code of Virginia! – can also be found on the Virginia state government website. The Blue Book regulations make reference to the code.

Transportation **9-21-07 – 7115.5** – (.5 is that is how many version of the regulations)

Transportation study found that FCPS was utilizing the bus system at 106% capacity – on any given day!!

III. Alternative Modes of Transportation and Outsourcing

Taxis - TAXIS – Parental permission is required for taxi, as in some cases this is the only means available.

Busses

Some school districts did this in late 80's for budget crunches. Study was inconclusive as to being a major cost benefit – as when resources are divested, the initial cost saving was evident, but then they found that money had to be allocated in a contracted. Also – customer service becomes an issue and then the districts were at the mercy of those companies. Furthermore, the bus driver needs to have the same rigorous training as the regular transportation employees of FCPS. Again, quality customer service becomes an issue here, as the bus driver can help make or break a child's comfort – not a casual connection.

V. Problem with outsourcing

1. Long term costs
2. When you outsource – lose the quality control point.

VI. Lawsuits?

Nothing over taxis – a discussion on as – size of vans to take small groups – golf, debate teams – discussion in late 80's about what kind of van was able to be used? NHTSA guidelines rule these guidelines.

Fairfax County Public School Regs and Policies TRANSPORTATION

Aides

[R4612](#), [R7102](#)

Athletic program

[R5790](#), [R3860](#)

Attendants

[R4612](#), [R7102](#)

Bus (see BUS)

Bus driver/attendant (see BUS DRIVER/ATTENDANT)

Destaff

[R4253](#)

Exceptions

[P7101](#), [R7101](#)

Extracurricular activities

[R5790](#)

Field trips

[R5790](#), [R7101](#), [N7110](#)

Manual

[R7102](#)

Nonschool activities

[R5790](#)

Office of Transportation Services duties

[P7101](#), [R7101](#), [R7104](#)

Pupil eligibility

[P7101](#), [R7103](#)

Pupil transportation manual

[R7102](#)

Routes/schedules

[R7104](#)

School bus

[P7101](#)

Use of school board-owned sedans/station wagons/trucks/buses

[R7115](#)

Vehicle replacement

[P7130](#)