



State Department of Education
Response to Comments
STANDARDS FOR
IDAHO SCHOOL BUSES AND OPERATORS

Docket No. 08-0202-1702

May 9, 2017

Negotiated rulemaking was conducted on the revisions to the Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operators, Incorporated by Reference Document. Notice was distributed through a press release and on the State Department of Education's (SDE) website. Stakeholders were informed by email of the intention of the department to promulgate rule on this topic and a copy of the draft was attached. A draft of the rule, public comment forms, and links to an online survey were available through the SDE's website. A Notice of Intent to Promulgate Rules was published in the April 5, 2017, edition of the Administrative Bulletin. Six (6) public meetings were held across the state between April 11 and 20, 2017, during which any member of the public could provide verbal or written feedback on the suggested amendments to the rule. No comments were received during the public meetings. One (1) written was received through the SDE's public comment online submission form.

Formal Public Comment Received:

I have four school age children. I live in the Coeur d'Alene school district, on a county maintained road. The school district does not provide busing for my children. The nearest "bus stop" is 2.5 miles away. This is very unsafe. The school district provided safe busing to our driveway/home for 60 years before utilizing the loophole in the year 2012, that allows districts to designate "non-transportation zones" (Idaho statute 33-1502), even when it is unsafe and detrimental to students' educations and family's' livelihoods. This discriminatory and unsafe statute is being taken advantage of by schools across the state in an effort to save money and re-allot transportation funds. There are hundreds of students and families subject to these ridiculous "non-transportation zones" just in District 271. It mostly affects rural students across the state. Please change this policy. Someday a child could be killed walking home on unsafe roads without walkways. Parents and families are suffering because of this loophole that makes it very difficult to be employed if one is forced to be at a bus stop several times a day. Students' educations are compromised because of this, as it is incredibly burdensome to maintain good attendance, when adequate transportation is not provided.

SDE's Response:

We understand parents' concerns regarding non-transportation zones; however, changes to the district management of such non-bussing zones cannot be addressed through the Administrative Rule change (Incorporation by Reference, Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations) for which we were soliciting comments. To make the change requested would require a change to Idaho Code section 33-1502. A member of the Idaho Senate or House would have to sponsor a bill addressing such revisions.