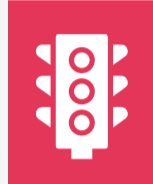


RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER



The yellow school buses are among the safest modes of transportation and the school bus driver is a key stakeholder in ensuring it.

Some of their responsibilities include:



Sincerely following all traffic rules.

(According to the National Safety Council, 109 people were injured in school bus-related crashes in 2019[1].)



Evaluating the condition of tires, brakes, windshield wipers, lights, oil, fuel, water, and safety equipment of the vehicle periodically. Raising alerts in case of discrepancies.



Informing school authorities about any accidents, traffic or transport situations that require immediate attention.



Making sure that children are boarding and deboarding the vehicle safely.



Keeping a record of the children using the vehicle.



Providing timely communication to school authorities about possible delays.

In the post-pandemic landscape, drivers will have added responsibilities of ensuring compliance with safety protocols inside their vehicles. Managing all of these tasks manually can be daunting.

Schools must acknowledge the challenges of the driver's job and offer adequate help. This is crucial to curbing the growing driver shortage on account of the pandemic. *(In Ellensburg, Wash., the district registered a 33% loss in school bus drivers since last spring[2].)*

Schools can honor the profession of school bus drivers by equipping them with advanced tools to make their jobs safer, more efficient, and hassle-free. Digital fleet management solutions like SafeBus can achieve all of this and more. Tech intervention can help as follows:

- ◆ The software automatically identifies, generates, and implements optimal routes for each vehicle. Drivers do not need to worry about passing through COVID-19 hotspots since the automated system excludes that possibility.
- ◆ The driver app includes details of all the students boarding the bus. Automated roster management takes the burden off the shoulders of drivers while making the process less prone to errors.
- ◆ The software automatically updates the boarding/deboarding statuses and ETAs for each address. The driver app, parent app, as well as central dashboard for transport admins receive notifications in real-time.
- ◆ Through the SOS notification feature, students can raise alerts about misdemeanors or violations of safety protocols. This is supplemented by real-time monitoring done by transport admins through CCTV integrations. Drivers can thus make immediate event-triggered intervention without having to keep an eye at all times.
- ◆ Automated checklist feature enables timely vehicle sanitization and replenishment of safety equipment such as masks and hand sanitizers.
- ◆ The platform ensures that transport teams follow maintenance schedules. This allows drivers to operate their vehicle at its optimal efficiency, thus reducing the chances of engine breakdown or any untoward incident from taking place.

References

[1] Injury Facts

[2] EducationWeek – May 19, 2021

