



NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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RESOLUTION: 2006-017-P
SUBJECT: Cell Phone Use on School Buses
DATE ADOPTED: June 9, 2007
AMENDED: ---
REVIEWED 12/4/2010

On the Recommendation of the Pupil Safety Committee, the Board of Directors adopts the following Position Paper on an issue affecting the safety of student riders:

CELL PHONES

Statement of Policy

The NYAPT Board of Directors believes that it not conducive to pupil safety for a school bus driver to use a cell phone in other than specific circumstances.

The use of cell phones is pervasive in our society. Cell phones are a necessary tool and provide safety and security benefits as well as convenience to millions of users. Cell phone use by the motoring public in New York State is governed by §1225(c)(2) of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Cell phones are also used in the pupil transportation industry. Cell phones are often used when two way radios are not available, in emergencies, and just for convenience.

NYAPT takes the position that cell phones should be used in our industry only under certain conditions. Bus drivers should have access to cell phone whenever practicable. The use of cell phones should be permitted only when subject to the following restrictions:

1. Cell phones are never to be used, hands free or otherwise, when transporting students or driving the school bus for any reasons.
2. Cell phones should be carried by the school bus driver in such a fashion as not to interfere with the bus driver's ability to operate the school bus. To avoid distraction the cell phone should be silenced.
3. Cell phones may be used by the bus driver in the event of an emergency or when the driver is not within two way radio range or a two way radio is not available.