



National School Transportation Association

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# **Cell Phone Use by School Bus Drivers**

Policy adopted January 31, 2007

The National Transportation Safety Board has found and the National School Transportation Association recognizes that

- School bus drivers have a professional duty to direct 100% of their attention to the safe operation of the school bus and the safety of their passengers;
- Communicating on a cellular phone or other personal portable electronic device, whether it is hands-on or hands-free, while driving a school bus or supervising the loading and unloading of students distracts drivers from their professional duties;
- Research indicates that talking on a cellular phone is related to an increased risk of motor vehicle accidents.

Therefore, NSTA recommends that school bus companies adopt the following policy regarding cellular phone use by school bus drivers:

Drivers may not use a cell phone or other personal portable electronic device while operating a school bus or any other vehicle transporting students, including while loading and unloading students, except in an emergency. For the purpose of this policy, an emergency exists if the driver requires immediate assistance to ensure the safety of his/her passengers or to report a dangerous or life-threatening situation.