



School Transportation Association of Indiana

Recommended Policy

Use of Cellular Telephones on the School Bus ADOPTED 4/27/07

On November 30, 2006, the National Transportation Safety Board, Washington, D.C., issued safety recommendations for cellular telephone use on school bus. Their research found that using a cellular telephone while driving degrades several aspects of driving performance resulting in slower reaction times, slower speeds, and increased instances of attention lapses. Research has also shown that conversing on a hands-free cellular telephone while driving impairs performance.

It is the belief of the School Transportation Association of Indiana (STAI) that our business is to recruit and train bus drivers to transport students in the safest manner possible without unnecessary distractions. Therefore, the School Transportation Association of Indiana recommends that all schools systems in the State of Indiana adopt a policy prohibiting drivers of all vehicles transporting students from using cellular telephones while the vehicle is in motion.

The policy should establish that: While the bus is in motion the driver shall not use cellular devices, including hands-free and ear pieces. If an emergency arises requiring the use of such a communication device, the driver shall have the bus pulled off of the traveled portion of the roadway in a safe place and parked with the brake set.

To read the NTSB's safety recommendations in its entirety access:
http://ntsb.gov/recs/letters/2006/H06_29.pdf