

NSTA CELL PHONE POLICY STATEMENT

Revised January 2014

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 and security of their passengers;

Science, research data as well as real world events clearly show communicating by voice or text on a cellular phone or other personal portable electronic device, whether it is hand-held or hands-free, distracts drivers from their professional responsibilities.

Accordingly, 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, (hand held, hands free or blue tooth) or other personal portable electronic devices while operating a school bus. This includes "on duty" non-driving times while waiting to load or unload, during pre- trip and post trip inspections or while performing any other safety sensitive non-driving responsibilities. The only exception to this prohibition is during an emergency. For the purpose of this policy, an emergency exists if the driver requires immediate assistance to ensure the safety or security of his/her passengers or to report a dangerous or life-threatening situation. To prevent distraction we recommend all cell phones remain off or in the silent mode and stowed while the driver is on duty in their bus, with or without passengers on board.