
EMPLOYEE DRIVING POLICY

Sage Oak Charter Schools (“SOCS” or the “School”) must ensure that risks to the School are minimized and ensure that only safe drivers are allowed to drive on School business. The Board requires that all employees who regularly drive as part of their job duties (“Driving Employees”) meet minimum standards of safety and insurance, which must be verified by the School. Driving employees must obey all traffic laws and drive safely while on School business.

Positions requiring driving shall state such in the job description and staff will be required to maintain a valid driver’s license and vehicle insurance in order to meet the minimum qualifications of the position and perform the essential duties of the role. This policy covers all school employees and violation of the School’s policy is grounds for discipline up to and including termination.

Driver’s License and Insurance Coverage

1. In order to operate a personal vehicle when used to perform SOCS business, Driving Employees must have a valid driver’s license and automobile insurance meeting the minimum standards established in this policy at all times. Evidence of the Driving Employee’s driver’s license and automobile insurance certificate will be kept on file. The Driving Employee is responsible for providing an updated driver’s license and automobile insurance certificate whenever it expires or upon request. The Executive Director or designee must be notified immediately if the Driving Employee no longer has a valid driver’s license or insurance certificate. Any Driving Employee whose driver’s license or insurance certificate lapses or is cancelled or revoked for any reason, and who cannot otherwise arrange for travel as required by their position, may be terminated or placed on inactive/unpaid status until the issue is remedied.
2. SOCS requires that a Driving Employee carry the following insurance amounts and coverage:

Automobile Liability - \$100,000 per person; \$300,000 per occurrence

Property Damage - \$50,000 per occurrence

Medical Payments - \$5,000 per person

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SOCS receives notifications from the Department of Justice (DOJ) when an employee has been arrested and when there has been a conviction for a crime. Notification of a traffic violation resulting in a misdemeanor or felony charge will be discussed with the employee. Certain driving violations may be grounds for termination from a position that requires regular driving such as:

1. Attempting to evade a police officer
2. Driving with a revoked or suspended license
3. Hit and run
4. Speeding over one hundred (100) miles per hour
5. Reckless driving
6. Driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol

Responsibilities of Human Resources

When recruiting for positions that require the employee to operate a vehicle, the posting notice shall advise applicants that a current driver's license record and verification of automobile insurance will be required prior to a final job offer.

Employee Responsibility

Employees are responsible for maintaining driver's licenses and special certificates required for the performance of job duties. Employees are also responsible for promptly notifying their supervisor of expiration, conviction, or other DMV actions against their driver's license or certificate by no more than five (5) business days from the occurrence.

Use of Electronic Devices While operating a Vehicle

SOCS recognizes staff members may spend a considerable amount of time driving for business purposes. It is the intention of the School to ensure all staff members are safe while driving a vehicle. Although hands-free options are available, it is the policy of the School to discourage employees from utilizing a cell phone or other electronic devices while operating a vehicle.

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Distracted driving can be described as any visual, cognitive or manual distraction which takes attention away from the task of safe driving. Employees are expected to follow all federal and state distracted driving laws. Employees who are charged with traffic violations resulting from the use of an electronic device while driving will be solely responsible for all liabilities that result from such actions.

The School highly encourages employees to use their best judgement and reserve all conversations conducted on an electronic device for when they are not in operation of a vehicle. It is recommended that employees find a safe location and park their vehicle prior to placing or accepting a telephone call. Texting while driving is prohibited. Voice texting while driving is strongly discouraged. Safety must come before all other concerns.

Revocation of Driving Privilege

The Human Resources Director or designee will monitor the subsequent arrest notifications from the DOJ. Any Driving Employee who is convicted of a DUI, loses their driver's license or driving privilege, or is deemed to be a "negligent operator" by the DMV, and fails to make suitable arrangements for alternative transportation to maintain meetings as an essential function of their position will immediately be placed on unpaid administrative leave.

Seat belts are an essential element of the School's safety procedures. To emphasize seat belt awareness, one (1) seat belt violation while on SOCS business will equate to a moving violation and may lead to disciplinary action. Repeat seat belt violations could lead to termination of the at-will employment agreement.

Alternative Transportation

All employees must make suitable arrangements to ensure timely attendance at all appointments that are essential job functions. With the advance approval of the Executive Director or designee, the employee may be reimbursed the actual miles traveled using the Schools' current mileage reimbursement rate, for their travel using public transportation or rideshare service where a personal vehicle is not available or alternative transportation is not feasible. Driving Employees will not be reimbursed additional charges and expenses outside of the actual miles traveled for utilizing a rental car, taxi, or rideshare service in the event that the employee's personal vehicle is unavailable.

Nothing in this policy is intended to replace the employer's responsibility to engage in the interactive process with an employee who has requested accommodation due to an illness, injury,

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or disability. The Human Resources manager or designee will ensure compliance in all matters pertaining to this policy.