



527.1 STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

I. PURPOSE

While the law requires the school district to furnish safe and reliable transportation, it does not relieve parent/guardians of students from the responsibility of supervision until such time as the child boards the bus in the morning and after the child leaves the bus at the end of the school day. Once a student boards the bus, and only at that time, does he or she become the responsibility of the school district. Such responsibility shall end when the child is delivered to the regular bus stop at the close of the school day.

The School Board shall require students to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. In cases when a child does not conduct himself properly on a bus, such instances are to be brought to the attention of the Director of Transportation Services by the bus driver. Children who become a serious disciplinary problem on the school bus may have their riding privileges suspended. In such cases, the parent/guardian of the children involved become responsible for seeing that their children get to and from school safely.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The following is a list of behavior standards for students riding buses. The students' compliance with these regulations, without it being necessary to call their attention to them, will reduce transportation hazards and will be appreciated by the driver.
1. The bus driver is in full charge of the bus and riders at all times. Students are responsible to the driver while riding the bus the same as they are responsible to teachers while in attendance at school.
 2. It is dangerous for students to move about the bus while in motion. Students must not change seats while the bus is in motion or scuffle while on the bus.
 3. Any distractions of the driver's attention to remind the student of some regulation or to answer an unnecessary question jeopardizes the safety of every student on the bus. Students must not carry on a conversation with the driver.
 4. Students must be ready for the bus at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. Changing weather and road conditions make it impossible for the bus to maintain an exact schedule every morning, but transportation will be as close to schedule as possible.
 5. Students have a responsibility to keep the bus clean. They should do their part to keep the floor clear of wastepaper and dirt and to keep the upholstery and

interior finish of the bus in excellent condition.

6. Students should not stand in the traffic lanes while waiting for the bus.
 7. Students should never extend their arms or heads out of the bus windows. Windows should not be lowered any further than to allow air to pass through the bus.
 8. **LOADING** -- When students cross the road to be picked up, the students should take extra caution in watching for approaching vehicles and wait for the driver to motion them it is safe to cross.
 9. **UNLOADING** -- At all discharge points where it is necessary for students to cross the road, the student should cross at least ten (10) feet in front of the bus and again take extra caution in watching for approaching vehicles. Only after the bus driver motions them, it is safe to cross.
 10. A student will be denied riding privileges for the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or of vulgar, profane or abusive language while riding the bus.
 11. Any damage done to the bus should be reported to the driver when it occurs.
- B. The Director of Transportation/designee, will administer student conduct based on the following procedures:
1. After verbal warning from the driver, if the need for disciplinary action continues, students may be assigned to a seat on the bus.
 2. The **FIRST** report of an incident involving a student's misbehavior on or near a bus will be sent to the parent/guardian, stating if the student's behavior does not improve, he or she will be denied bus riding privileges for a period of five (5) days. If the **FIRST** incident is a flagrant or more serious violation, it will result in the loss of riding privileges on the first offense and may include longer suspension periods from the bus. (Example: fighting, vandalism, possession or use of matches, lighters, tobacco, alcohol, a dangerous weapon and exiting the rear emergency door or tampering with emergency equipment.)
 3. The **SECOND** report of a student's misbehavior will be sent to the parent/guardian stating the student will be denied his/her bus riding privilege for a period of five (5) days with the effective date of such disciplinary action and the date the student may resume riding. Loss of riding privileges applies to all buses: Students will not be allowed to ride any A.M., P.M. or activity routes.
 4. A **THIRD** report will cause the student loss of privileges for a period of ten (10) days.
 5. The **FOURTH** report on a particular student during one school year will lead to the denial of bus riding privileges for the balance of the school year. For incidents involving damage to a bus: a broken window, cuts, holes or writing on

seats, etc., the student and parent/guardian involved will have two (2) weeks to make arrangements for payment or riding privileges will be denied. End of the year incidents, resulting in loss of riding privileges, will be carried over to the next school year.

C. The following rules and regulations shall apply to all passengers riding on a school activity bus:

1. The emergency door is for emergency use only, and at no time shall anyone exit or enter the emergency door, except at the direction of the driver.
2. There shall be no eating or drinking on any bus. If passengers must bring lunch, a suitable place should be found for them to eat outside the bus.
3. All band, choir, athletic, or other equipment shall be loaded in an area of the bus designated by the driver.
4. Interior lights shall be turned off anytime the bus is in motion (except for rear courtesy light).
5. Roll call of passengers may be taken before the bus leaves the loading place and again before it leaves for the return trip. All passengers must depart and return on the same bus unless written permission is given to the driver for other arrangements.
6. Passengers must stay seated when the bus is in motion.
7. Some singing, cheering and occasional raised voice can be tolerated. Any noise that would be of a safety concern or detract unnecessarily from the passenger comfort is not to be tolerated.
8. Windows are not to be opened unless under the direction of the driver.
9. There is no smoking at any time on any school district property, which includes school busses.

D. Whenever teachers, coaches or chaperones are on the bus, they shall assist the bus driver in maintaining the conduct of the bus riders. Any passenger or passengers, and/or sponsor shall make restitution resulting from damage to a bus or school equipment therein. Any infraction of one or more of these rules and regulations may be cause for the discontinuation of transportation service to the passenger(s) or group(s) involved.

POLICY ADOPTED: 17, February 2009