

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

The school bus is considered an extension of the classroom; therefore, students shall conduct themselves while on the bus in a manner consistent with standards for classroom behavior. In addition, bus rider rules shall be followed. Bus rider rules provide for safe and orderly transportation, and will be distributed to students at the beginning of each school year.

A student is under the supervision of the school bus driver from the time he/she boards the bus until his/her departure from it. The bus driver is responsible for maintaining proper order on the bus. Bus drivers shall handle all cases of minor misconduct on the bus but shall not have authority to suspend a student's bus riding privileges. Bus drivers shall receive information and training on the appropriate handling of student misconduct on the school bus and related expectations on an annual basis.

The bus driver is in full authority when on a route. The driver has the right to discipline in a reasonable manner. The driver will instruct students in safe crossing procedures. The driver has the right to assign seats, give verbal warnings, give instructions to students, and send written reports of misconduct to the building principal.

In cases of continuing misconduct on the bus or misconduct that can lead to suspension of bus riding privileges, the misconduct should be reported to the building principal for action. A student's bus riding privileges may be suspended for:

1. Behavior that compromises safe busing;
2. Behavior that endangers health, safety or property;
3. Repeated violation of bus rider rules; or
4. Violation of any other Board policies or school rules governing student conduct.

Before suspension of bus riding privileges, the student's parent or guardian shall be notified.

Should a situation arise that prevents the driver from safely driving the bus or presents immediate danger to other students, the driver may have the student removed by staff or law enforcement personnel.

According to an Attorney General's Opinion (63 Atty. Gen. 526) students may have their bus riding privileges suspended without being suspended or expelled from school. Before such suspension can take place, students must be afforded due process as provided by Section 120.13(1) of the State Statutes.

Bus Rider Rules

The behavioral expectations when students ride the bus include:

- Students stay seated while the bus is moving
- Students follow the driver's directions
- Students will not eat or drink on the bus

Bus Misconduct

There will be consequences for students who do not follow these expectations. Students will receive a verbal prompt when their behavior does not meet expectations. If the student does not comply, the bus driver will submit a written bus referral. Bus referrals will be forwarded to the building principal. Unless there is student behavior that warrants more immediate action, consequences for not following bus expectations will be as follows:

- The first written referral - the principal meets with the student to discuss the expectations. The parents will receive a phone call.
- The second written referral - the principal meets with the student and calls a parent. The student will receive a two-day suspension from the bus.
- The third written referral - the principal meets with the student and calls a parent. The student will receive a four-day suspension from the bus.
- The fourth written referral-the principal meets with the student and calls a parent. The student's bus riding privileges may be suspended to the end of the current semester or the end of the school year.
- The fifth written referral-the principal meets with the student and calls a parent. A student who is suspended from bus riding privileges will not be allowed to ride the bus to field trips or extra-curricular activities.

Legal Ref: 120.13(1), 120.44, 121.52(1) (b); 121.52(2) WSS; TRANS 300 WAC

Cross Ref:

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