



Student Transportation Safety Policy 709.0

Conduct on School Buses and Consequences for Misbehavior

School Bus and Bus Stop Rules

The school district's school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the school district's discipline procedures are to be followed. In most circumstances, consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the school bus driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to the school district's Transportation Office/School Office.

Rules at the Bus Stop

1. Get to your bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
2. Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
3. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
4. Use appropriate language.
5. Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
6. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
7. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
8. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
9. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
10. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

Rules on the Bus

1. Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
2. Sit in your seat facing forward.
3. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
5. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
6. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
7. Do not throw any object.
8. No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
9. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
10. Do not damage the bus.

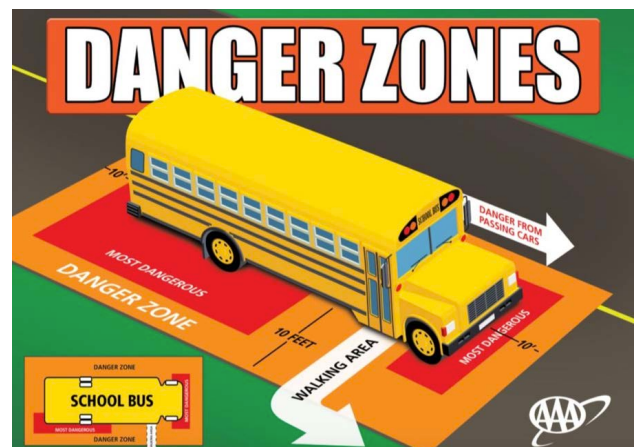
Assigned Buses Only

Students are assigned to buses and bus stops. No change in either bus or stop is permitted without transportation department authorization. Temporary changes may be made by school administration for emergencies only. Failure to ride the assigned bus to/from the assigned bus stop may result in disciplinary action.

Unacceptable Acts

The following list identifies unacceptable acts subject to disciplinary action. Violation of any of these offenses on or around the school bus, or any other approved vehicle used to transport students, or the action interferes with or obstructs the safe operations of the school bus or the safety of the student, other students and staff or the aiding and abetting of such acts may lead to the implementation of a disciplinary action or consequence listed below, including permanent suspension from the school bus or expulsion:

- Violations of school bus procedures or acts disruptive to the safety of the school bus, including but not limited to, disruptive and disrespectful >>>



- >>> behavior defiance of authority, failure to identify oneself, use of profane language, horseplay or distracting behavior, eating, drinking, or littering on the bus, spitting, leaving seat while bus is moving, use of laser pointers, opening window past safety line, and riding unassigned bus or using an unassigned bus stop;
- Violations against property including tampering with, unauthorized use of, damage to, or destruction of school bus property, property of school bus personnel and/or vandalism, arson, theft or possession of stolen property;
- Violations against persons communicated or attempted to be communicated by any means. Such violations include but are not limited: verbal and/or nonverbal intimidation, threats; stalking; obstruction; assault; fighting; extortion; bullying, harassment; indecent exposure; hazing;
- Student attire or personal grooming which creates a danger to health or safety or creates a disruption to the school bus operation, including clothing which bears a message which is lewd, vulgar, or obscene, apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal, or clothing containing objectionable emblems, signs, words, objects, or pictures communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected class or which connotes gang membership;
- Possession and/or use of any electronic devices including, but not limited to smartphones, cellphones, computers, tablets, etc. in a manner, which threatens or intimidates others and/or disrupts the safety procedures of the school bus;
- Possession, distribution, or display of slanderous libelous, pornographic, racist, or gang affiliated material or symbols;
- Possession, use, and/or transmission of tobacco, nicotine products, electronic cigarettes, vape pens or look-alikes in any form;
- Possession, use, of any open-flame items, like matches or lighters;
- Possession, use (including being under the influence and look alike substances) and/or transmission of controlled substances including but not limited to any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, inhalant, toxic or mood altering substances, intoxicating beverage, any paraphernalia associated with such controlled substances or any controlled substance or the unauthorized use of prescription medications;
- Possession, use, and/or or transmission of weapon(s) or any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon(s): weapon means knife, firearm or an item which looks like a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, in working or nonworking condition; destructive explosives, any incendiary device or look alike and/or

- the threatened intent or intent to cause an explosion; or any other device or instrument which is utilized in such a manner so as to threaten, intimidate or produce bodily harm or the fear of such;
- Criminal Activity;
- Riding or attempting to ride any bus during a bus suspension;
- Violation of any school board policy

Code of Conduct

Disciplinary action may be taken for any behavior, which is disruptive of good order or violates School Board Policy or the rights and safety of others or themselves. The school has the authority to and obligation to establish and enforce reasonable standards of conduct on the bus or any form of transportation. "Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right."

Students who have the opportunity to ride district school buses may do so as long as they conform to reasonable standards of conduct. The bus driver, bus paraprofessional or any school official supporting the bus driver is responsible for the safety and discipline of students while on the school bus. The building principal or their designee will determine the consequences for violating the school bus code of conduct.

The responsibility for student supervision by the district shall begin when the student boards the bus and is retained until the student exits the bus. The bus and the bus stop are extensions of the school day. Bus and bus stop consequences may be superseded by district policy. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats and direct students to ensure safety on the bus. The school district's harassment policy, weapons policy, and bullying policy will be strictly enforced on the school bus. Video surveillance may be used on school buses.

Under the Laws and Rules for Operation of School Buses in the State of Minnesota, it is stated that "... no materials, including guns, loaded or unloaded; gasoline cans, empty or full; animals or any other object of dangerous or objectionable nature are transported in the school bus when children are being transported." Band instruments are allowed on the bus if they can be held in the student's lap. Instruments may not be in the aisle or take the space of another student.





Other prohibited equipment:

Hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks, and golf clubs. Sleds, ice skates, in-line skates, skateboards, baseball and softball bats are not permitted unless enclosed in an athletic bag or are otherwise inaccessible. Damage to personal property is not covered by the bus contractor's/district's insurance coverage.

Consequences

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school district under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school district's transportation safety director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all routes and trips. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with extracurricular and co-curricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

Disciplinary action or consequences for these acts may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Student Conference (Warning)
2. Assigned Seat
3. Parent Contact
4. Parent Conference
5. 1-10 day Bus Suspension
6. Transfer to new bus route
7. Alternative Transportation Assigned
8. Permanent Loss of Transportation Services
9. Suspension from School
10. Expulsion from school
11. Referral to law enforcement

When determining an appropriate action, the school administrator will consider the extent of the disruption to the safety of the school bus operation, or safety of other students or staff on the bus. The school administrator will consider the student's age, development, ability, special education status, EL status, language, and mental health status that impact student's action when considering interventions and discipline.

The bus and the bus stop are extensions of the school day. Bus and bus stop consequences may be superseded by District #11 policy. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats. The sexual/racial/religious harassment policy, the weapons policy, and bullying policy of District #11 will be strictly enforced on the school bus as well as at school. Video cameras will be used on all school buses.



Records

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that are reasonably believed to cause an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property shall be provided by the school district to local law enforcement and the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.

Vandalism/Bus Damage

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within 2 weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.

Notice

School bus and bus stop rules and consequences for violations of these rules will be reviewed with students annually and copies of these rules will be made available to students. School bus rules are to be posted on each school bus.