

Student Safety and Conduct on Buses

Any misconduct by a student, which in the opinion of the bus driver or bus supervisor, is detrimental to the safe operation of the bus, will be sufficient cause for the principal to suspend the transportation privilege.

Students will obey the driver and any aide assigned to the bus by the district. The driver is in full charge of the bus and passengers and will be obeyed. If an aide is assigned to the bus by the district, he/she will be responsible for the safe operation of the bus. When transporting classes or teams, the teacher or coach will be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students. Students will obey both the driver and the teacher, coach or other staff member.

When waiting for a bus, or going to and from a bus stop, students are responsible for conducting themselves according to the social and legal mores that apply to adults in public. That is, they must not abuse or cause damage to private or public property; they must not use obscene language or gestures; they must not engage in criminal activity. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in formal complaints by citizens which may be forwarded to principals for possible corrective action.

Students provided with transportation are responsible for complying with the district's rules of conduct for students riding buses. (For further guidelines, see P3100-3.) Failure to adhere to these rules or abusive behavior towards the public, driver, fellow passengers or the vehicle constitutes justification for initiating corrective action against a student.

Disciplinary Procedures

Student misbehavior which distracts the school bus driver is a serious hazard to the safe operation of the bus and jeopardizes the safety of all passengers. A student receiving a first or second offense may have his/her bus privileges denied for up to ten (10) school days – longer if the student has created a serious safety problem. If a student damages a school bus, the student's parent or guardian will be held responsible for the damage. If a student receives a third offense, bus privileges may be denied for up to ten days for elementary school students and the remainder of the semester for secondary students. Video cameras have been installed on school buses and may be used to verify student behavior. The student and/or parent may appeal the action taken. Please contact the school for further information about the appeal process.

When a student's conduct constitutes an infraction of the rules, the driver or bus supervisor will complete a report on the student describing the incident or damage that occurred. The driver or bus supervisor will provide the student with a copy of the report, hand the original report to the principal and submit a copy to the transportation supervisor. The copy of the report concerning special education students will be given to the principal for disposition.

The principal upon receiving the report will investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident and take action according to the procedures set forth in the district's policies pertaining to corrective action and punishment. When investigating the incident, the primary concern must be with respect to the safe transport of students. Corrective action, if necessary, should be consistent throughout the district. If the student's misconduct constitutes Exceptional Misconduct (P3100-6), discipline will be imposed by the principal accordingly.

Emergencies

The transportation supervisor will review the contents of the School Bus Driver's Handbook with each driver prior to the beginning of each school year. Each driver, in turn, is expected to follow the procedure as outlined in the handbook.

At the start of each field trip or extracurricular trip, the school bus driver will review with all passengers the location and use of the emergency exits, emergency equipment and any district emergency procedures.

In the event of an accident, the driver will make contact with the transportation supervisor who will:

- A. Determine the nature of the accident;
- B. Contact emergency services if there is reason to believe that there are injuries which require immediate attention;
- C. Contact the state patrol or appropriate local authorities regarding the accident;
- D. Advise the superintendent of schools;
- E. Investigate the accident and gather the names of all students and witnesses;
- F. Dispatch another bus to transport the student to their destination;
- G. Contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any students who are injured.

To facilitate the responsibilities assigned to the transportation department, the supervisor, in cooperation with the building principals, will compile a list of students, including addresses and phone numbers, that are authorized to ride each bus route.

Cross References:	6605	Student Safety Riding Buses
	P3100-3	Guidelines and Rules for Students Riding the Bus
	P3100-3.1	Student Misconduct Notice
	P3100-6	Exceptional Misconduct

Legal Referenes:	WAC 392-144-20	School district rules defining misconduct
	WAC 392-145-30	Rules for Students Riding school buses

August 20, 2007

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