

STUDENT DISCIPLINE ON BUSES

Background

It is the practice of the District to provide transportation for certain students in its schools. However, parents remain responsible for supervision until such time as the student boards the bus in the morning and after the student leaves the bus at the end of the school day.

Once the student boards the bus (and only at that time) does he or she become the responsibility of the District. In view of this, the District regards the bus as an extension of the classroom, and all students are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the same standards of behaviour that have been set for the classroom.

Procedures

1. All bus students will be given the list of bus safety rules during the first week of school. (Appendix) These will be reviewed by the classroom/homeroom teacher. Students will take the list home for the information of parents and return the tear-off information card completed and signed by their parent. The information cards will be kept at the school until the beginning of the next school year.
2. A basic list of rules will be posted on each bus.
3. Discipline for Minor Offences
 - 3.1. On the occasion of a minor offence a student will be issued a discipline slip. The parent must sign the slip and the student return it to the driver before being allowed to ride the bus. The second and third copies of the slip will be given to the bus contractor, who will pass one copy on to the Principal. The Principal will follow this up with the student and will contact the parent to ensure that the parent is aware of the incident.
 - 3.2. In the case of a second minor offence within a period of four months, the Principal will confirm the circumstances with the bus contractor and the student and will issue a suspension from the bus for a period of two days. The Principal will contact the parent to advise of the suspension and the reasons for it.
 - 3.3. Minor offences are:
 - 3.3.1. Eating
 - 3.3.2. Drinking
 - 3.3.3. Shouting/making excessive noise
 - 3.3.4. Throwing objects
 - 3.3.5. Littering
 - 3.3.6. Not remaining in assigned seat
 - 3.3.7. Moving around while bus is in motion

3.3.8. Blocking aisles

3.3.9. Spitting

4. Discipline for Repeated Minor Offences or Major Offences

- 4.1. In the case of a third minor offence within a period of four months, or a major offence, the bus driver will issue a discipline slip to the student, with a copy to the Principal, which indicates to the parent that the student will not be permitted to ride the bus until a meeting of all concerned: student, parent, contractor, driver, and Principal, is held to resolve the situation. The parent is to initiate the meeting by contacting the Principal. If contact is not made by the following school day, the Principal shall contact the parent.
- 4.2. After this meeting the Principal will decide if the student will be returned to the bus, suspended from riding the bus for a specified period of time, suspended from school for a period of up to five days, or if some other form of discipline is to be applied.
- 4.3. Major offences are:
 - 4.3.1. Throwing objects at driver
 - 4.3.2. Direct disobedience
 - 4.3.3. Fighting
 - 4.3.4. Smoking
 - 4.3.5. Significant damage to the bus
 - 4.3.6. Obscene language

5. Throwing Objects at Driver

- 5.1. Throwing objects at or near a bus driver is a major offence. In the case of a suspension for this offence, the student and their parents will be required to meet with the Superintendent.

6. If Responsible Party Not Determined

- 6.1. If the driver cannot determine which student(s) is/are responsible for a disturbance on the bus, the driver will:
 - 6.1.1. Deliver the students home or to school, whichever is the intended destination;
 - 6.1.2. Inform the students that the Principal(s) will be told of the disturbance and that if the matter is not resolved, bus service will be withdrawn the following day.
- 6.2. These rules and procedures must be followed by all concerned. Busloads of students are not to be returned to school, and students are not to be put off buses other than at their destination.

Reference: Sections 6, 7, 11, 17, 20, 22, 65, 79, 85 School Act
School Regulation 265/89

Adopted: December 18, 2001
Revised: June 25, 2019