

**Bus Discipline Policy**

The students are responsible for their behavior on the bus and their behavior could affect the safe operation of the bus. Misbehavior could result in the bus driver being distracted. Such distractions could endanger the lives of all students being transported. Therefore, behavior infractions must be reported and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with these guidelines.

Parents are requested to explain the importance of proper behavior on the bus. They are also expected to support disciplinary actions that are necessary to help their child change his/her behavior.

The primary responsibility of the driver is to safely transport the students to and from school and school-related activities. While transporting students, the driver also has the responsibility of maintaining discipline on the bus. Therefore, the driver will report behavior infractions to the proper authority on the forms provided.

Behavior Guidelines and Consequences

The following behaviors will not be permitted on the bus. The behaviors are grouped according to the seriousness of the offence. More serious misbehaviors will result in harsher consequences. The behavior consequences will escalate if the child insists on repeating the unacceptable behavior.

Some Examples of Unacceptable Behavior\*

**Minor Infractions**

- Hitting
- Spitting
- Profanity
- Out of seat
- Throwing objects
- Obstructing aisles
- Making loud noises

**Major Infractions**

- Assault
- Fighting
- Vandalism
- Insubordination
- Hanging out windows
- Possession of a weapon
- Possession or use of tobacco
- Possession or use of alcohol
- Use of fire in the bus

\*If the infraction is a violation of the law the proper authorities will be notified. If the infraction results in property damage restitution must be paid or a plan for restitution must be agreed upon before the riding privileges are reinstated.

### Minimum Consequences for Minor Infractions

Minor First Offense: Driver conferences with the student, identifies the infraction, and writes the behavior referral with copies to the parent/parents, appropriate administrator, and director of transportation/bus company.

Minor Second Offense: Driver conferences with the student, identifies the infraction, and writes the behavior referral with copies to the parent/parents, and appropriate administrator and director of transportation/bus company. The parent copy of the referral must be signed by the parent/parents and presented to the driver by the student before he/she can ride the bus the next day.

Minor Third Offense: Driver conferences with the student, identifies the infraction, and writes the behavior referral with copies to the parent/parents, the appropriate administrator and the director of transportation/bus company. The appropriate administrator contacts the parent/parents, reviews the child's behavior record, and suspends the riding privileges for three days. All succeeding offenses in the minor category will be treated as a Major Infraction—first offense, second offense, and then third offense.

### Minimum Consequences for Major Infractions

Major First Offense: Driver conferences with the student, identifies the infraction, and writes the behavior referral with copies to the parent/parents, the appropriate administrator and the director of transportation/bus company. The appropriate administrator contacts the parent/parents, reviews the behavior incident, and suspends the student's riding privileges for five days. The parent/parents and student must attend a conference with the appropriate administrator and driver before the riding privileges are reinstated.

Major Second Offense: The same procedure will be followed as outlined in the first offense. However, the riding privileges will be suspended from ten to fifteen days.

Major Third Offense: The same procedure will be followed as outlined in the first offense. However, the riding privileges will be suspended for fifteen days. Any succeeding offenses will result in immediate suspension of riding privileges and the case may be presented to the School Board with a request for action by the School Board.

### Dangerous Behavior Clause

If a student performs an act that obviously jeopardizes the safe operation of the bus or endangers the safety of others on the route, the building principal may suspend the student from riding the bus the next morning or evening route. The building principal must notify the parents and the appropriate administrator as soon as possible, detailing the incident. Riding privileges cannot be reinstated until a conference is held with the driver, parents, student, and the appropriate administrator/bus company representative.

Adopted: 3/11/98  
Revised: 10/4/04  
Reviewed: 11/26/07

Reviewed: 3/28/16  
Revised: 12/21/20  
Reviewed: 5/10/21