

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Bus transportation is a service for students provided by the District. Like education, it is both a right and a privilege as long as students obey the rules of the school. According to Section 103(2) of the School Act, the rules of the school apply while students are on the premises, in both going to and returning from school, and at all school games and functions held either on or off school premises.

So as to minimize the risk of accident while on the bus from causes inherent in the situation, and of accident caused by distracting the driver, the District has developed procedures governing student conduct on school buses.

Students shall observe the District procedures for students on school buses while they wait for or alight from a bus, and while traveling on a bus.

Procedures

1. Bus drivers shall be provided with a copy of the procedures for conduct on school buses; they shall be expected to be thoroughly familiar with them.
2. At the beginning of each school year, principals shall arrange to have these procedures made clear to all students. The Principal shall deal with this topic at the same time that procedures for classroom and school conduct are reviewed.
3. The Transportation Supervisor shall distribute the procedures to all students registering for bus transportation.
4. Bus drivers shall enforce these procedures.
5. Student Responsibility

For the safety of all concerned the following rules have been adopted. All students are expected to abide by the rules of good conduct while traveling on the school bus.

- 5.1 Students will show care, courtesy, common sense and respect for each other, the bus driver and adults.
- 5.2 The driver shall be in complete charge of the school bus. Directions must be followed promptly and courteously. When necessary, drivers have the authority to assign students to designated seats. In the event of an emergency, students are to remain in the bus unless instructed otherwise.
- 5.3 Students are to remain properly seated at all times, and remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop. Students will not extend any part of their body out of the windows or into the bus aisles.
- 5.4 Students are to avoid behaviour which may divert the driver's attention. Horseplay and objectionable language will not be tolerated.

- 5.5 Belongings carried onto the bus must be contained in a gear bag which can be easily managed and held by the student. All items must fit comfortably in the passenger's space without extending into the aisle or interfering with other passengers. Items of a size or nature considered to be hazardous to other passengers will not be carried on the bus (e.g., hockey sticks, weapons, sharp objects, etc.).
- 5.6 When crossing the roadway, students shall only cross in front of the bus.
- 5.7 Consumption of food/beverage is not permitted. Students are to assist in keeping the bus clean and sanitary at all times.

6. Parent Responsibility

Our common goal is to transport students to and from school in the safest possible manner aboard school buses which are well maintained and orderly. Your assistance as a parent in ensuring the following procedures are followed would be appreciated.

- 6.1 Ensure students are ready to board the bus on time (at least five minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus).
- 6.2 Instruct students in proper behaviour while waiting for the bus.
- 6.3 Instruct students that they are to ride only the bus for which they are registered. Students shall ride to and from the designated bus stop.
- 6.4 Any item of such a size or nature that is considered hazardous to other passengers or may create damage to the vehicle shall not be carried on the bus. Musical instruments will be carried only if the size does not exceed that of an alto saxophone. Oversized musical instruments such as guitars and trombones will not be carried.
- 6.5 Familiarize yourself and student(s) with the code of conduct for students traveling on the school bus. Failure to abide by the rules of good conduct may result in the loss of bus riding privileges.

7. Disciplinary Procedure

- 7.1 Serious and/or continued misbehaviour may result in the loss of bus riding privileges. Riding privileges will not be reinstated until a meeting is convened between the parent, student, the Principal and the Transportation Supervisor and when appropriate, the bus driver. Such a meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible but no longer than 5 school days after the infraction.
- 7.2 Singularly inexcusable conduct, i.e. threatening or assaulting driver, shall result in an immediate suspension from bus privileges (see 7.1).
- 7.3 Vandalism will result in an immediate suspension of bus riding privileges and will not normally be lifted until restitution has been made.
- 7.4 Offences not covered under clauses 7.2 and 7.3 will be recorded on a School Bus Conduct Report ([Form 351-1](#)). The Transportation Supervisor will determine when to notify the parent and school of the student's inappropriate behaviour.

Legal Reference: Sections 20, 22, 65, 85 School Act

Adopted: March 11, 1998

Amended: May 13, 1998; November 17, 2004; September 1, 2018