

5.35 STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION

5.35.1 Rules and Regulations Governing Student Transportation

Adopted January 3, 1994

- A. The driver is in complete charge of all students during the loading, unloading of the bus, and during transit. He/she has the same authority as the teacher in the classroom.
- B. The driver has no authority to stop the bus to load or unload students except at the designated stops. Students shall have written permission from parent or guardian to leave the bus at other than at his or her regular stop.
- C. Policy states that students will be at their bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. All students shall be orderly on the bus and obey the driver promptly.
- D. Students shall take their seats immediately upon boarding the bus and utilize no more space than is necessary. The Bus Driver has the authority to assign seats.
- E. Students shall avoid improper language or boisterous conduct and shall not smoke, chew tobacco, use drugs/liquor or any ignitable material.
- F. Visitors are not allowed to ride the bus without permission from the proper authority. (Principal or Transportation Supervisor)
- G. Any student damaging transportation property in any way shall pay for all such damages.
- H. Students shall keep the bus clean by not throwing paper or other articles on the floor. No food drinks or refreshments are to be consumed on the bus without the principals approval.

Throwing of any material in or from the bus will be sufficient reason to refuse transportation to the student involved.

- I. Students shall keep head and arms inside the bus and remain seated while the bus is in motion. Windows shall remain closed unless permission is obtained from the driver.
- J. Students shall watch out for traffic while loading and unloading of buses and shall pass in front of the bus, and watch approaching traffic before crossing the highway. Students shall not cross a highway or street until given permission by the driver. They shall walk facing traffic.
- K. Weapons or fireworks of any kind are not allowed on the bus.
- L. No animals are allowed on school buses without prior approval from principal or transportation director.
- M. Pupils shall not talk to driver unless necessary. Students are not allowed to sit in the driver's seat or stand while the bus is in motion.
- N. Continued misconduct by a student shall be handled according to District policy for unsatisfactory conduct on the bus. Refusal to cooperate with the driver and not complying with regulations is sufficient reason for student to be denied transportation.
- O. The driver has the right to refuse transportation to any student for serious problems such as fighting on the bus, disregarding safety rules, smoking, vandalism, vulgar language or any other situation that is deemed severe.
- P. Only elementary students who live 1 ½ miles or more from school and secondary students who live 2 miles or more from school are authorized to ride a bus.

5.35.2 Video Camera on School Buses

Adopted May 6, 2008

A. Purpose and Philosophy

- 1. The objective of student management is the desirable behavior of all students riding on school buses.
 - a. The school day begins one-half hour before school and ends one-half hour after school. As students go to meet the bus before school and leave the bus to go home after school, the school is responsible for the students.
 - b. Although the prime responsibility for a student's conduct rests with the administrator of the school, the school bus driver is responsible for the health, safety and welfare of each passenger while in transit.
- 2. School systems should promote, communicate and enforce procedures to be followed by the students when they are riding the bus.
 - a. Local school disciplinary codes should include pupil behavior and discipline while on the bus. Rules can be enforced only with the cooperation of every person concerned with transportation.

- b. Observance of these rules will ensure safety, prompt arrivals and departures of buses, and proper attitudes on the part of the students. Violation of these rules may result in the suspension of bus riding privileges and/or some other sanction.
3. Student behavior on the school bus and the driver's management of that behavior are the two key elements to a safe and enjoyable bus ride.
- a. The use of a video camera on a school bus is an aide to monitor bus discipline.
 - (1) It does not replace the discipline policy, the authority of the driver, or the responsibility of the school officials.
 - (2) The basic safe riding rules must prevail and the consequences of misconduct must be carried out. Violence will not be tolerated on the school bus.

1. Policy

- a. All students shall receive training in proper school bus riding practices. They also are to be advised of the student disciplinary code from the student's home school.
- b. Video cameras may be placed on any bus in Tooele County School District authorized by the transportation administrator or director.
- c. The cameras on the buses shall be recording throughout the routes. If there are a number of incidences of misconduct or serious reports on the bus, more extensive video monitoring of a particular bus route may occur.
- d. Following videotaping, the tapes are to be stored at the Transportation Department for a period of ten (10) days. The Transportation Supervisor shall periodically review videotaping randomly selected to ensure proper school bus conduct. If there are no reports of misconduct within ten (10) days, the tapes will be recycled. However, if there is misconduct incidences reported or viewed during random selection, the videotapes are to be kept until final resolution, including any appeals.

2. Student Education Records Management

- 1. Video or audio tapes are education records subject to protection under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- 2. Video or audio tapes may be reviewed by school officials who have a legitimate educational interest.
- 3. Parents/guardians have the right, upon request, to inspect and review their student's education records maintained by the District or school. Parents are not entitled to review any personally identifiable information about other students. Therefore, if the tape contains personally identifiable information about a student other than the parent's own student, and the information cannot be easily separated, in order to limit access to only the relevant student's information, a school official shall summarize the contents of the tape and inform the parents of the contents either verbally or in writing.