

STUDENT CONDUCT ON BUSES

PURPOSE:

To establish School Committee expectations for the providing of an orderly process for the carrying out of a school district-wide transportation program.

PHILOSOPHY:

The safety and well being of all students requiring daily transportation to and from school, or the carrying out of periodic school activities during the school day requiring transportation of students, necessitates a formalized, and well organized transportation, including the establishment of standards of conduct required of students involved. This policy is designed to serve this end.

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

It is explicitly understood that bus drivers are in complete charge of their vehicles and have supervisory responsibilities relative to riders in their buses. Students are expected to behave properly, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and follow bus rules, regulations and verbal directions of the driver at all times while on a bus.

PROCESS FOR DISCIPLINE:

- I. The school Principal is responsible for invoking formal disciplinary action when a school bus driver reports that an act of misbehavior has occurred. Included in the actions that may be taken are:
 - A. Issue a warning to students via correspondence from the Transportation Supervisor.
 - B. Notification to parents of infractions via correspondence from the Transportation Supervisor.
 - C. Immediate suspension of bus privileges via correspondence from the Transportation Supervisor for the following:
 1. Fighting on the school bus
 2. Smoking or the lighting of matches/lighters on the school bus
 3. Exiting through the rear emergency door of the school bus
 4. Verbal assault directed at the school bus driver, monitor or other student
 5. Substance abuse on the school bus (possession or use of alcohol/drugs)
 6. Possession or use of weapons on the school bus
 7. Physical assault on the school bus driver or monitor
 8. Indecent exposure

- D. Temporary suspension of bus riding privileges via correspondence from the Transportation Supervisor.
 - E. Repeated violations by a student will be referred to the Superintendent who may take action to extend the suspension, or place the student on probation.
 - F. Permanent removal of bus riding privileges may be imposed by the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.
 - G. Any action described above may be appealed by a student/parent in the following sequence: the transportation provider, the school Principal, the Superintendent, the School Committee.
- II. A driver is permitted to bring a bus back to the appropriate school building where administrative support can be obtained if, in the driver's opinion, the student actions on the bus are detrimental to the health and safety of the student him/herself, or other students on the bus.
In the event of the implementation of this provision of the policy, the following actions shall be fulfilled.
- A. In the event of returning to the school, the Principal shall be immediately notified.
 - B. The students shall be provided with a copy of the district's pre-established form letter to be delivered to their parents appropriately noting the deviation in the bus run.
- III. The Superintendent of Schools is empowered, in cooperation with the transportation providers, to establish and impose such rules and regulations as deemed necessary and appropriate for the fulfillment of the intent and purpose of this policy.
- IV. It shall be expressly understood that a student's suspension from use of transportation services shall not constitute an excused absence from school and that absence during such a period will be treated accordingly.
- V. This policy and resultant rules and regulations governing student conduct and discipline on school buses shall be distributed to students, their parent(s)/guardian(s) and bus drivers at the beginning of each year.
- VI. All records and documentation regarding a student's suspension shall be destroyed at the end of the school year. No information regarding same shall be placed in a student's permanent record.

Adopted: 11/18/57

Amended: 4/27/59; 2/27/2002