

## **Student Conduct on School Buses**

### **Examples of inappropriate behavior**

Inappropriate behavior which involves the safety and welfare of bus riders or others:

1. Failure to remain seated
2. Teasing/harassing others
3. Hitting, fighting or assault
4. Unnecessary loud noises
5. Refusal to obey driver/insubordination
6. Throwing objects on or outside of the bus
7. Improper bus loading or unloading
8. Unauthorized use of emergency door or emergency equipment
9. Other dangerous, disruptive or inappropriate behavior

Inappropriate behavior which violates Board policy or regulations:

1. Vandalism or destruction of property
2. Profanity/obscene gestures
3. Use of tobacco
4. Use of drugs or alcohol
5. Possession of a weapon
6. Spitting
7. Other inappropriate or unacceptable behavior

### **Minimum consequences**

All students are expected to exercise self control commensurate with their age and development. Generally, inappropriate behavior by secondary students grades 6-12

is more deliberate, dangerous and/or disruptive. Due to their maturity level, older students are expected to exercise greater self control.

Disciplinary measures for inappropriate behavior will accumulate. A warning might be given for one type of inappropriate behavior followed by a suspension for another type of inappropriate behavior.

### Elementary

1st offense: Depending on the nature of the inappropriate behavior, a warning may or may not be given. A warning form usually will be written by the bus driver and sent home with the student. The warning form must be signed by the parent/guardian and the student, then returned to be kept on file in the Transportation office.

It is primarily the bus driver's responsibility to insure that the warning form has been signed and returned. If necessary, the driver may request the assistance of school administrators or the Director of Transportation.

If the warning form is not signed and returned the following school day, the student will be called to the principal's office and the parent/guardian will be contacted. The bus driver usually will be expected to be present for this contact. A copy of the warning form will be kept at the school, and a second copy will be kept in the Transportation office.

2nd offense: Usually will result in a one- to two-day suspension of bus riding privileges. The parent/guardian must be notified prior to suspension. The bus driver primarily is responsible for notification of the parent/guardian but may request the assistance of school administrators or the Director of Transportation.

A suspension form will be sent home with copies sent to the school and the Transportation office. The bus driver will see that school and Transportation office copies are delivered the next school day.

3rd offense: Usually will result in a three- to five-day suspension of bus riding privileges. School/District administrators together with the bus driver must contact the parent/guardian prior to suspension. A suspension form will be sent home with copies sent to the school and the Transportation office.

4th offense: Usually will result in a suspension of bus riding privileges for six – to ten-days or longer if the inappropriate behavior warrants. The parent/guardian will be contacted prior to suspension by school administrators.

A parent/guardian conference will be held before the student resumes riding the bus. This conference usually will include the school/District administration, bus driver, parent/guardian and the student.

Suspension of bus riding privileges may include all bus routes and field or activity trips.

In cases of bus infractions involving drugs, assault, vandalism, possession of a weapon or other serious inappropriate behavior, it may be deemed appropriate to contact law enforcement officials for assistance. Suspension or expulsion from school also is likely.

In cases of suspension due to vandalism, appropriate arrangements for restitution must be made prior to re-establishment of riding privileges.

### Secondary

1st offense: Depending on the nature of the inappropriate behavior, a warning may or may not be given. Serious inappropriate behavior or vandalism will result in immediate suspension. If a warning is to be used, a warning form usually will be written by the bus driver and sent home with the student. The warning form must be signed by the parent/guardian and the student, then returned to be kept on file in the Transportation office.

It is primarily the bus driver's responsibility to insure that the warning form has been signed and returned. If necessary, the driver may request the assistance of school administrators and/or the Director of Transportation.

If the warning form is not signed and returned the following school day, the student will be called to the principal's office and the parent/guardian will be contacted. The bus driver usually will be expected to be present for this contact. A copy of the warning form will be kept at the school, and a second copy will be kept in the Transportation office.

2nd offense: Usually will result in a one- to two-day suspension of bus riding privileges. The parent/guardian must be notified prior to suspension. The bus driver primarily is responsible for notification of the parent/guardian but may request the assistance of school administrators and/or the Director of Transportation.

A suspension form will be sent home with copies sent to the school and the Transportation office. The bus driver will see that school and Transportation office copies are delivered the next school day.

3rd offense: Usually will result in a three - to fifteen-day suspension of bus riding privileges. The parent/guardian will be contacted prior to suspension by school administrators with the bus driver present. A suspension form will be sent home with copies sent to the school and the Transportation office.

A parent/guardian conference will be held before the student resumes riding the bus. This conference will usually include the school/District administration, bus driver, parent/guardian and the student.

4th offense: Usually will result in a suspension of bus riding privileges for a minimum of one semester; if necessary, into the next school year. The parent/guardian will be contacted prior to suspension of bus riding privileges.

Suspension of bus riding privileges may include all bus routes, vocational training or activity trips.

In cases of bus infractions involving drugs, assault, vandalism, possession of a weapon or other serious inappropriate behavior, it may be deemed appropriate to contact law enforcement officials for assistance. Suspension or expulsion from school also is likely.

In cases of suspension due to vandalism, appropriate arrangements for restitution must be made prior to re-establishment of riding privileges.

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