

STUDENT RULES AND CONDUCT ON THE SCHOOL BUS

In order to ensure the safety of all students riding District provided school buses, appropriate behavior is required for all students. Transportation to and from school is an extension of the classroom and should be considered part of the school day. The issue of safety requires students to be on their best behavior while on school buses or vehicles.

The Student Code of Conduct applies to students at all times when being transported on school buses or other District provided transportation to and from school or school activities. Thus, while students may lose the privilege to ride the bus or other District transportation due to students' failure to maintain the behavioral expectations, students may also be subject to interventions and/or disciplinary consequences for the same behaviors according to the Student Code of Conduct.

A. Behavioral Expectations & Rules for School Buses and Other District Provided Transportation.

1. Student shall arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. If a student misses the bus, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to transport the student to school.
2. Student shall wait in a safe place, clear of traffic until the bus stops, door is open, red flashing lights are on, and the driver has directed you to proceed.
3. Student shall wait in an orderly line and avoid horseplay.
4. Student shall cross the road or street only in front of the bus only after the bus has come to a complete stop and upon direction of the driver (10-foot minimum crossing distance).
5. Student shall go directly to an available or assigned seat when entering the bus and move in toward the window.
6. Student shall remain seated until they have reached their designated stop and the bus has come to a complete stop. Aisles and exits must be kept clear at all times and emergency door will be used for emergencies only.
7. Students shall observe normal classroom conduct and obey the driver promptly and respectfully. The driver is in complete charge of the bus and his/her decisions and requests must be followed.
8. Students shall not engage in verbal abuse and/or use abusive language to others.
9. Students may carry only objects that can be held on his/her own lap. Musical instruments, athletic equipment bags and the like must be placed in the area designated by the driver.
10. Student shall refrain from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into buses.
11. Student shall refrain from eating and drinking on the bus.
12. Student shall respect the rights and safety of others.
13. Students may ride only the bus that they have been assigned, and students may only board or exit at their assigned stops. (Exceptions will only be made with a note from a Principal or Principal's designee.)
14. Students are prohibited from extending head, arms, or objects out of the bus windows and are not

allowed to open or close windows without permission of the driver.

15. Only authorized riders will be permitted on the bus.

16. When necessary, students will be expected to sit three passengers to a seat.

17. Students are strictly prohibited from using tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substance. In addition to any interventions or consequences pursuant to these rules or the Student Code of Conduct, the police will be notified whenever a student is involved with the possession and/or use of alcohol, drugs, or any illegal substances.

18. Student shall not use profane language or obscene gestures and shall not make excessive noises while on the bus.

19. Fighting, wrestling or acts of physical aggression are strictly prohibited.

20. Students shall not deface or otherwise damage the bus, the driver's or any other students' belongings while on the bus. Students/Parents will be held responsible for any and all damages to the bus caused by the student by way of vandalism or other intentional or reckless conduct.

21. Students shall not carry hazardous material, nuisance items, or animals onto the bus.

22. Students are prohibited from hitching rides via bumper or other parts of the bus.

B. Response and Consequences for Misconduct on School Buses.

Students not adhering to the above expectations may receive consequences as described below.

However, **when a student engages in any conduct that threatens or impacts the health or safety of students, staff or others, the Principal, Transportation Coordinator or Superintendent may impose more significant and immediate consequences including lengthier transportation suspensions.**

The following will generally apply to violations of expectations 2 through 16:

First Referral: will result in a letter of warning with a copy sent to the student's parents/guardians, and a copy kept on file in the School Administrator's Office and the Transportation Coordinator.

Second Referral: will result in an immediate two (2) day suspension from District transportation to and from school.

Third Referral: will result in an immediate five (5) day suspension from District transportation to and from school.

The following will generally apply to violations of expectations 17 through 22:

First Referral: will be an immediate five (5) day suspension from all District transportation.

Second Referral: will be an immediate ten (10) day suspension from all District transportation.

Third Referral: will result in the immediate suspension from all District transportation. "RSA 189:9 – Pupils prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons.

C. General Provisions Relating to Transportation/Bus Suspensions.

All transportation suspensions are measured by school days, not calendar days. Repeat transportation suspensions or suspensions over five (5) days will apply to all District transportation, including to and from

school, as well as any school sponsored activity or program (e.g., field trips, athletic competitions, etc.).

Transportation suspensions shall not begin until the next school day following the day written notification of suspension is sent to the pupil's parent/guardian.

Any suspension to beyond twenty (20) school days must be approved by the school board.

If a pupils transportation privileges have been suspended for violations of the behavior rules or other disciplinary reasons, the parent or guardian of that pupil has right of appeal within ten (10) days of suspension to the authority who issued the suspension.

The Board should consult with counsel regarding the procedures to apply at any Board review or appeal regarding suspension of an individual's transportation privileges.

Until any appeal is heard, or if the suspension of pupil's privileges to ride the school bus is upheld, it shall be the parents' or guardians' responsibility to provide transportation to and from school for that pupil for the period of the suspension.

D. Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses.

Video cameras may be used on school buses to monitor student behavior. Audio recordings in conjunction with video recordings may also be captured on school buses, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 570-A:2. See Board policy ECAF – Audio & Video Surveillance on School Buses.

E. Students with Disabilities.

Students with disabilities will be disciplined in accordance with federal state law including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as set forth in the procedures developed by the administration.

Legal References:

RSA 189:6-a, School Bus Safety

RSA 189:9-a, Pupils Prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons

RSA 193:13, Suspension and Expulsion of Students

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

First Reading: May 26, 2021

Second Reading: June 9, 2021

Adopted: June 9, 2021

First Reading: March 9, 2022

Second Reading: April 6, 2022

Revised: April 6, 2022