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709 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide safe transportation for students and to educate students on safety issues and the responsibilities of school bus ridership.

II. PLAN FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING

A. School Bus Safety Week.

The third week of school is designated as school bus safety week. The National School Bus Safety Week is the third full week in October.

B. Student Training.

1. The school district shall provide students enrolled in grades kindergarten (K) through 10 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:
 - a. transportation by school bus is a privilege not a right;
 - b. school district policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
 - c. appropriate conduct while on the bus;
 - d. the danger zones surrounding a school bus;
 - e. procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
 - f. procedures for safe vehicle lane crossing; and
 - g. school bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.
2. All students in grades K through 6 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training by the end of the third week of school. All students in grades 7 through 10 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training or receive bus safety instruction materials by the end of the sixth week of school, if they have not previously received school bus training. Students in grades K through 10 who

enroll in a school after the second week of school, are transported by school bus, and have not received training in their previous school districts shall undergo school bus safety training or receive bus safety instructional materials within four weeks of their first day of attendance. The school district may deny transportation to a student who fails to demonstrate the competencies, unless the student is unable to achieve the competencies due to a disability. Further, the school district may deny transportation to a student who attends a nonpublic school that fails to provide appropriate student training.

3. The school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must provide students enrolled in grades K through 3 school bus safety training twice during the school year.
4. Students taking driver's training instructional classes must receive training in the laws and proper procedures for operating a motor vehicle in the vicinity of a school bus as required by Minn. Stat. § 169.446, Subd. 2 and 3.
5. The school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must conduct a school bus evacuation drill at least once during the school year.
6. The school district will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.
7. The school district may provide kindergarten students with school bus safety training before the first day of school by supplying each student with a copy of the school district bus riding rules and regulations.
8. The school district may provide student safety education for bicycling and pedestrian safety for students in grades K-5.
9. The school district's curriculum for transportation is maintained and available for review at the Media Center.
10. Nonpublic school students transported by the school district will receive school bus safety training by their nonpublic school. The nonpublic schools may use the school district's school transportation safety education curriculum. Upon request by the school district superintendent, the nonpublic school must certify to the school district's school transportation safety director that all students enrolled in grades K through 10 have received the appropriate training.

III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR

- A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding school buses as are expected on school property or at school activities, functions or events. All school district rules are in

effect while students (public, non-public and charter) are riding the bus or are at the bus stop.

B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the district's transportation safety director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules: The school district school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the school district's discipline procedures are to be followed. In most circumstances, consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the bus driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to their Bus Operator, who will then report misconduct to the school district's Transportation Office.

2. Rules at the Bus Stop:

- a. Get to your bus stop 5 to 10 minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- b. Respect the property of others while waiting at the bus stop, do not run or play ball.
- c. Parents/guardians are responsible for the discipline of students at the bus stop. It is **not** the responsibility of the bus operators or the school district. Severe problems should be directed to the Police Department.
- d. Animals are not allowed at the bus stop or on the bus.
- e. Stay away from the street, road or highway when waiting for the bus and during the winter months never walk or play on snow banks as you could fall under the wheels of an automobile or bus.
- f. When the bus arrives, get in line, back away from the road, do not push or shove. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door is open before approaching the bus. Use hand rails and take your seat quickly.
- g. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
- h. Use appropriate language.
- i. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
- j. No use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

- k. After getting off the bus, immediately move away from the bus, stay out of the "Danger Zones".
 - l. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus about 10 giant steps so the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street. If you can see the driver's eyes - the driver can see you! If you can touch the side of the bus, then you are too close.
3. Rules on the Bus:
- a. Immediately follow the direction of the driver as they are in full charge of buses and students.
 - b. Sit in your seat facing forward, do not move around.
 - c. Talk quietly and use appropriate language, do not shout or yell. At railroad tracks, there must be absolute silence.
 - d. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
 - e. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
 - f. Behave in a responsible manner. No fighting, spitting, teasing, hair pulling, harassment, intimidation or horseplay will be allowed.
 - g. Do not throw any objects on the bus or out of the windows.
 - h. No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs.
 - i. Do not bring any weapon or dangerous object on the school bus.
 - j. Do not damage the school bus, report any damage immediately to the driver.
 - k. No radios, large musical instruments, skateboards, sports equipment or other large items that cannot be held on your lap will be allowed on the buses.
 - l. Use the bus for transportation to and from school only. Transportation will **NOT** be provided for students to attend club meetings, medical appointments, parties, jobs, etc. It is not allowable to bring friends home from school on the buses.
 - m. A camera may be used on the bus to record student conduct.

4. Consequences:

- a. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and extra curricular routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extra-curricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

(1) Elementary and Secondary (K-12)

Students violating bus rules will be given a **warning card** and denied transportation until the card is signed by their parents/guardians and returned to the bus driver. After the third reported offense or if the violation is such that it could endanger the lives of the other students riding the bus, a **School Bus Incident Report** will be completed and the student will be denied transportation for a period of time that will be determined by District 77. Students in grades K-5 cannot be denied transportation until their parents/guardians have been notified of the violation.

(2) Other Discipline:

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school also may result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

(3) Records:

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that are reasonably believed to causes an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property shall be provided by the school district to local law enforcement and the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law. Records also may be maintained in the transportation office.

(4) Vandalism/Bus Damage:

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.

(5) Notice:

School bus and bus stop rules and consequences for violations of these rules will be reviewed with students annually and copies of these rules will be made available to students. School bus rules are to be posted on each school bus.

(6) Criminal Conduct:

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, drug possession or vandalism), the Superintendent or appropriate school district personnel, and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

A. Parent and Guardian Notification:

The school district school bus and bus stop rules will be provided to each family at the beginning of the school year or when a child enrolls, if this occurs during the school year. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.

B. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities for Transportation Safety:

1. Become familiar with school district rules, policies, regulations, and the principles of school bus safety, and thoroughly review them with their children;
2. Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions;
3. Communicate safety concerns to their school administrators;
4. Monitor bus stops, if possible;
5. Have their children to the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives;
6. Have their children properly dressed for the weather;
7. Have a plan in case the bus is late;
8. Respect the rights and privileges of others, and
9. When appropriate, assist students in safely crossing local streets before boarding and after leaving the bus.

V. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. School bus drivers shall have a valid Class A, B, or C Minnesota driver's license with a school bus endorsement. A person possessing a valid driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may drive a type III vehicle set forth in Sections VIII.D. AND VIII.E., below. Drivers with a valid Class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a "type A-I" school bus as set forth in Section VIII.F., below.
- B. The school district shall conduct mandatory drug and alcohol testing of all school district bus drivers and bus driver applicants in accordance with state and federal law and school district policy.
- C. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-1 school bus or type III vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license and who is convicted of a criminal offense, a serious traffic violation, or of violating any other state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, in any type of motor vehicle in a state or jurisdiction other than Minnesota, shall notify the Minnesota Division of Driver and Vehicle Services ("Division") of the conviction within 30 days of the conviction. For purposes of this paragraph, a "serious traffic violation" means a conviction of any of the following offenses:
1. excessive speeding, involving any single offense for any speed of 15 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit;
 2. reckless driving;
 3. improper or erratic traffic lane changes;
 4. following the vehicle ahead too closely;
 5. a violation of state or local law, relating to motor vehicle traffic control, arising in connection with a fatal accident;
 6. driving a commercial vehicle without obtaining a commercial driver's license or without having a commercial driver's license in the driver's possession.
- D. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-1 school bus or type III vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license and who is convicted of violating, in any type of motor vehicle, a Minnesota state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, shall notify the person's employer of the conviction within 30 days of conviction. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in

Attachment A accompanying this policy.

- E. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-1 school bus or type III vehicle, who has a Minnesota commercial driver's license suspended, revoked, or cancelled by the state of Minnesota or any other state or jurisdiction and who loses the right to operate a commercial vehicle for any period or who is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for any period shall notify the person's employer of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. Such notification shall be made before the end of the business day following the day the employee received notice of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment B accompanying this policy.
- F. A person who operates a type III vehicle and who sustains a conviction as described in Section VIII.E.1.g. (i.e., driving while impaired offenses), VIII.E.1.h. (i.e., felony, controlled substance, criminal sexual conduct offenses, or offenses for surreptitious observation, indecent exposure, use of minor in a sexual performance, or possession of child pornography or display of pornography to a minor), or VIII.E.1.h. (multiple moving violations) while employed by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, shall report the conviction to the person's employer within ten days of the date of the conviction. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment C accompanying this policy.

V. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DUTIES

School bus drivers shall be adequately prepared, both physically and mentally, each day to perform required duties. These duties shall include:

- A. Operating the vehicle in a safe and efficient manner.
 - 1. Safety. The primary concern of each driver is safety. Drivers will exercise extreme caution during the loading and unloading process as well as when driving.
 - 2. Defensive Driving. All drivers are to drive defensively at all times. A definition of defensive driving is: driving in a manner to avoid accident involvement despite adverse conditions created by roads, weather, traffic, or errors of other drivers or pedestrians.
 - 3. Driving Adjustments. Winter and wet weather driving may require adjusting speed and normal driving practices to compensate for road conditions.
 - 4. Emergency Doors. Emergency doors must be free and operable. Under no circumstances may the doors be obstructed to prevent easy access.

5. Service Door. The service door of the bus must be closed at all times while the bus is in motion.
 6. Overloads. The registration card in all vehicles designates the maximum number of passengers allowed to be carried. This limit cannot be exceeded. A driver should call the designated individual for instructions should a vehicle become overloaded.
 7. Railroad Crossings. All vehicles used to transport students must stop at railroad crossings, using required procedures, whether they are loaded or empty. School buses shall not activate the eight-way lights; 4-way hazard lights are to be used before stopping and when crossing the tracks.
 8. Speeding and Other Moving Violations. No bus will travel faster than road, traffic and weather conditions safely permit, regardless of the posted speed limit. Any driver convicted of a moving violation with a school bus will face disciplinary action. Other reports or warnings regarding speeding will result in suspension and/or termination.
 9. Tobacco Prohibited. Smoking and chewing tobacco by either the driver or the passengers is prohibited on any school bus, Type III vehicle, or on school property.
- B. Conducting thorough pre-trip and post-trip inspections of the vehicle and special equipment.
1. Bus Inspection. Drivers are required to make a pre-trip inspection of the bus before each trip. Failure to do so is a violation of state law. Defects are to be reported in writing. Drivers are required to check their buses for students, vandalism and articles left on the bus after each route segment.
 2. Safety Equipment. All drivers are responsible for insuring that the necessary safety equipment is aboard the bus, including fire extinguisher, first aid kit, bodily fluids clean-up kit, flashlight, reflectorized emergency warning device, and any additional items required by the district. Drivers of vehicles for disabled students will ensure all student health information cards are on board the bus.
 3. Bus Cleaning. Drivers are required to keep the interior of their buses swept and free of trash at all times.
 4. Fueling. The driver is responsible for ensuring that his or her assigned vehicle is adequately fueled before leaving the yard. Smoking is prohibited in the fueling area. The engine shall be turned off while fueling. Drivers should never fuel with passengers aboard.

- C. Ensuring the safety, welfare and orderly conduct of passengers while on the bus.
- D. The school district shall conduct mandatory drug and alcohol testing of all school district bus drivers and bus driver applicants in accordance with state and federal law and school district policy.
- E. Meeting emergency situations in accordance with operating procedures.
- F. Communicating effectively with school staff, students, parents, law enforcement officials and the motoring public.
 - 1. Relations with Students. Bus drivers will treat students with respect and will refrain from any conduct which is intended or could be perceived as demeaning, intimidating or harassing.
 - 2. Relations with School Officials. School officials can and will be of considerable assistance to drivers. They are trained in the education of students and it is in their best interest that control and discipline be maintained on the bus. Therefore, it is very important drivers have good relationships with the school officials and give them full cooperation.
 - 3. Relations with the Public. It is important to remember that to the general public, the driver represents the school. Buses are one of the most visible vehicles on the road. Drivers must deal with students, parents, and other motorists in a polite, professional and considerate manner.
 - 4. Student Discipline. Although drivers are responsible for maintaining order on the bus, drivers must always remember that the types of actions they may use are limited. Drivers must never, under any circumstances, use corporal punishment. Drivers have no authority to deny a child the privilege of riding the bus, or drop the student at other than the designated stop. Any denial of bus-riding privileges may come only from the school authorities.
 - 5. Route Changes. No driver is to make changes in the pick-up or drop-off schedule for his or her route without prior authorization. No stops are to be added, deleted or moved without approval. No driver may deviate from the established route without prior permission except as required by an emergency or by temporary road conditions.
 - 6. Route Problems. Any problems, of whatever kind, encountered by a driver on the routes or trips should be brought to the attention of the designated individual as soon as possible.
 - 7. Unauthorized Passengers. Only authorized passengers may be transported in a bus. Any other passenger must be specifically approved.

8. Notices. It is the responsibility of the driver to check for notices each day and to check with his or her supervisor regularly.

G. Completing required reports.

It is the responsibility of the driver to completely fill out and timely turn in all reports, discipline referrals, time cards, and mechanical defect slips as required. This includes all requirements pertaining to pre-trip inspections and stop-arm violation reports.

H. Successfully completing required training programs and demonstrating sufficient skills and knowledge to transport students in a safe and legal manner.

I. Providing maximum safety for passengers during loading and unloading.

1. Standees Prohibited. Standees are not allowed on a moving school bus. Drivers must not move a bus from a stopped position until all passengers are seated. Students are to remain seated until the bus has stopped.
2. Dangerous Articles. No weapons or articles that may be classified as dangerous, may be transported on a school bus. This includes any and all weapons, gasoline cans, animals, and other dangerous or objectionable items. Possession of weapons on school property or the bus will not be tolerated. Companion dogs are allowed.
3. Wearing driver's seat belt whenever the bus is in motion.

Additional driver duties and responsibilities may be found in the driver handbook. All bus driver dismissals will be reported to the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Department of Public Safety directions.

J. Have a valid Class A, B, or C Minnesota driver's license with a school bus endorsement. A person possessing a valid driver's license without a school bus endorsement may drive a vehicle with a seating capacity of ten (10) or fewer persons used as a school bus, but not outwardly equipped or identified as a school bus as set forth in Section VIII.D., below. Drivers with a valid Class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a "Type A-I" school bus as set forth in Section VIII.F., below.

VII. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING

A. Training

All new bus drivers shall be provided with pre-service training, including in-vehicle (actual driving) instruction before transporting students and shall meet the competency testing specified by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual. All school bus drivers shall receive in-service training annually. For purposes of this section, "annually" means at least once every 380 days

from the initial or previous evaluation and at least once every 380 days from the initial or previous license verification. The following driver training standards represent the **minimum** areas of training which each driver must receive prior to entering service to the school district. The school district shall forward to the Commissioner of Public Safety the certification of in-service training, including the number of hours and competency certification for each driver.

All bus drivers operating a Type III vehicle will be provided with annual training and certification as set forth in Section VIII.E.1.b., below, by either the school district or the entity from whom such services are contracted by the school district.

[Note: the Model School Bus Driver Training Manual is available online through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Patrol web page.]

1. Pre-Trip Inspection

Both new and experienced drivers must be familiar with the elements of the mandatory pre-trip inspection required under Minnesota law including:

- a. The engine compartment — belts, valves, fluid leaks
- b. Engine start, warning lights, gauges, horn
- c. Fuel level
- d. Brakes — pedal reserve and air/vacuum gauges
- e. Interior — seats, floor, lights
- f. Electrical charging system
- g. Emergency door
 - (1) smooth latch operation
 - (2) alarm buzzer
- h. Entrance door operation
- i. Lift door operation and alarm
- j. Lift equipment for wheelchairs
- k. Wheels, service brakes, emergency brake
- l. Exterior Lights - headlights, brake lights, market lights, turn signals
- m. Exhaust system
- n. Windows, windshield, and inspection sticker
- o. Eight light system and stop arm
- p. Emergency equipment — first aid kit, bodily fluids clean-up kit, flashlight, reflectors, two way radio

2. Fundamentals and Techniques of School Bus Driving

The driver training program must include:

- a. Relevant laws
- b. Rules of the road and school district safety policies
- c. Defensive driving

- d. Driving in inclement weather conditions
 - (1) reduced visibility — rain, snow, fog
 - (2) wet roads
 - (3) icy roads
- e. Dealing with pedestrians and students in traffic
- f. Operation of the manual or automatic transmission
- g. The use of the drive train for stopping the school bus
- h. Situations where the hand brake will and will not stop a moving bus
- i. Steering and turning techniques
- j. Right and left turn maneuvers
- k. Gauging the speed of other vehicles on cross streets
- l. Use of mirrors
- m. Merging into traffic
- n. Visual perceptions
- o. Safe following distances
- p. Safe passing procedures
- q. Safe backing procedures
- r. Use of the eight-light system and school district policy regarding its use
- s. Loading and unloading procedures
- t. Knowledge of the danger zone concept
- u. Policies and procedures for grade level railroad crossings
- v. Emergency use of the public address system
- w. Response to an approaching emergency vehicle while unloading
- x. Procedures for leaving the bus unattended at school sites

3. Special Education Transportation

Special education transportation requires skills and abilities that exceed those required to provide normal school bus service. Drivers will be familiar with:

- a. What to do in a medical emergency
- b. Handling of wheelchairs
- c. Operating lift equipment
- d. Properly using wheelchair securement devices
- e. School district policies on the use of seat belts on designated students
- f. Handicapping conditions
- g. Responsibilities of the bus driver and the bus aide
- h. School district policy in situations where a responsible person is not available to receive a student

4. Emergency Procedures

Drivers must be prepared to deal with emergency situations while operating on routes and field trips. Included in these emergency situations are mechanical breakdown, fire, accident, or passenger injury. Drivers are to receive training in:

- a. Identifying the degree of an emergency before beginning an evacuation
- b. Identifying a safe evacuation unloading area
- c. Pre-planning emergency evacuations for both conventional and lift busses
 - (1) front, rear, and both door evacuations
 - (2) evacuation of special education students
 - (3) evacuation of physically disabled students and students using wheel-chairs
 - (4) placement of students in a safe location
- d. Cooperation in emergency evacuation drills
- e. Mechanical breakdowns
 - (1) stop bus in safe location
 - (2) keep passengers in bus if safe to do so
 - (3) take steps to warn motorists
 - (4) radio or call for assistance
- f. How to secure the school bus and place emergency triangles
- g. Use of the two-way communication system in an emergency
- h. When it is appropriate to evacuate the school bus
- i. How to supervise an emergency evacuation
- j. Emergency evacuation of the disabled
- k. Special considerations when evacuating a lift bus
- l. Lifting techniques for handling disabled students in an emergency situation
- m. Priorities when dealing with injured passengers
- n. How to use the school bus first aid kit
- o. Use and operation of the fire extinguisher
- p. Dealing with other motorists and the police
- q. Use of emergency reflectors and hazard lights
- r. Control of exposure to blood borne pathogens
- s. Use of body fluid clean-up kits
- t. School district policy on medical emergencies
- u. Recognition and handling of epileptic seizures
- v. How to respond if a passenger has a weapon on the bus

5. First Aid

All drivers must be trained in first aid, including the Heimlich maneuver, procedures for dealing with obstructed airways, shock, bleeding, and seizures.

6. Private or Confidential Student Information

All drivers should know the types of student data that are considered private or confidential under Minnesota Statutes

7. Student Discipline

- a. Creating a positive attitude on the school bus
- b. Oral and visual communications skills between the driver and the passenger
- c. Dealing confidently with a disruptive student
- d. District discipline policy
- e. Developing and enforcing workable rules
- f. Incident report forms
- g. District policy on possession of weapons by a student
- h. District policy on sexual, racial and religious harassment/violence
- i. District policy on smoking

8. Human Relations

- a. Appropriate driver behavior
- b. Sensitivity to a diverse student population
- c. Sensitivity to handicapping conditions
- d. Relations with parents and school staff
- e. Working with a special education bus aide

9. Chemical Abuse

- a. How alcohol and/or drugs can affect driving skills
- b. Drug-testing programs
- c. State and federal requirements

B. Evaluation.

School bus drivers with a Class D license will be evaluated annually and all other bus drivers will be assessed periodically for the following competencies:

- 1. Safely operate the type of school bus the driver will be driving;
- 2. Understand student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;
- 3. Ensure orderly conduct of students on the bus and handle incidents of misconduct appropriately;
- 4. Know and understand relevant laws, rules of the road and local school bus safety policies;
- 5. Handle emergency situations; and
- 6. Safely load and unload students.

The evaluation must include completion of an individual “school bus driver evaluation form” (road test evaluation) as contained in the Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.

VIII. OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES

A. General Operating Rules

1. School buses shall be operated in accordance with state traffic and school bus safety laws and the procedures contained in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.
2. Only students assigned to the school bus by the school district shall be transported. The number of students or other authorized passengers transported in a school bus shall not be more than the legal capacity for the bus. No person shall be allowed to stand when the bus is in motion.
3. Drivers are to enforce the provisions of the school bus and bus stop rules as appropriate. Students may be released from the bus at only two points, the designated bus stop or at school, except in case of an emergency or as otherwise authorized.
4. The parent/guardian may designate by a signed, written request a day care facility, respite care facility, the residence of a relative or the residence of a person chosen by the parent or guardian as the address of the student for transportation purposes. The address must be in the attendance area of the assigned school and meet other eligibility requirements.
5. Students who misbehave severely may be returned to the school immediately and reported to the building principal or other designated individual.
6. Safety evacuation drills for the student-passengers, shall be conducted at least twice a year.
7. There shall be no students in the bus while the fuel tank is being filled. Before leaving the vehicle when students are in the bus, the driver shall stop the bus, remove the ignition key, set the brakes and otherwise render the bus immobile.
8. Buses shall not be run backwards on the school grounds or any other point if it can be avoided. If it is necessary to run a bus backwards on school grounds, the driver shall have another responsible person act as a guard flagman in back of the bus to keep other persons out of the path and to issue warnings to the driver of approaching traffic.
9. When arriving or leaving the school grounds, the driver must not follow closer than 50 feet from the vehicle directly in front of the bus or closer than 500 feet when traveling on the highway.
10. No school bus shall pull any trailer when students are being transported on regular routes to or from school.

11. In case of an accident or breakdown of the bus, the driver shall contact the dispatcher using the two-way radio. If no radio contact is available, the driver shall not leave the bus but shall send two responsible students to the nearest house to summon help.
12. The district may adopt such additional operating rules as are deemed necessary to meet local conditions and needs, provided they do not conflict with state laws and regulations.

B. Use of Signals, Loading or Unloading

1. The driver shall activate the flashing 8-light system of the bus at least 300 feet before stopping to load or unload students when outside an incorporated municipality, and 100 feet when operating within an incorporated municipality, and shall not extinguish such lights until loading or unloading is completed and persons who must cross the roadway or highway are safely across.
2. Bring the vehicle to a complete stop in the right hand lane of the roadway parallel to the center line.
3. Prior to discharging students, open door, activate red flashing lights and extend the stop arm. Discharge students only after all traffic (front and rear) has come to a complete stop.
4. Keep door open and 8-light system operating until all students have been loaded or unloaded safely.
5. The driver should avoid loading or unloading students where the view is obstructed to other motorists for 200 feet in either direction.
6. The driver will not permit students to stand or get on or off the bus while it is in motion.
7. The driver will bring the bus to a full stop and disengage gears by shifting gear shift lever into neutral position or selector into neutral or park position before loading or unloading students.
8. Buses shall load and unload students only at designated locations.
9. Bus drivers must minimize, to the extent practical, the idling of school bus engines and exposure of children to diesel exhaust fumes.
10. To the extent practical, the school district will designate school bus loading/unloading zones at a sufficient distance from school air-intake systems to avoid diesel fumes from being drawn into the systems.

11. A bus driver may not operate a school bus while communicating over, or otherwise operating, a cellular phone, whether hand-held or hands free, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. For purposes of this paragraph, “school bus” has the meaning given in Minn. Stat. § 169.01, Subd. 6. In addition, “school bus” also includes type III vehicles when driven by employees or agents of the school district. “Cellular phone” means a cellular, analog, wireless, or digital telephone capable of sending or receiving telephone or text messages without an access line for service.

C. Crossing Highways and Streets

1. Students shall pass approximately 10 feet in front of the school bus so as to be seen by the driver and cross the road only upon receiving a hand signal from the driver, or
2. The student shall pass approximately 10 feet in front of the bus so as to be seen by the driver and be conducted across the road by the school bus patrol, or
3. The driver shall personally conduct the students across the road after following required procedures for disabling the bus.
4. The driver shall visually ascertain that students getting off the bus who do not need to cross the road are a safe distance from the bus before moving the vehicle.

D. Type III Vehicles

1. Type III vehicles are restricted to passenger cars, station wagons, vans, and buses having a maximum manufacturer’s rated seating capacity of 10 or fewer people including the driver and a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. A van or bus converted to a seating capacity of 10 or fewer and placed in service on or after August 1, 1999, must have been originally manufactured to comply with the passenger safety standards.
2. Type III vehicles must be painted a color other than national school bus yellow.
3. Type III vehicles shall be state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.
4. A type III vehicle cannot be older than 12 years old unless excepted by state and federal law.
5. If a type III vehicle is school district owned, the school district name will be clearly marked on the side of the vehicle. The type III vehicle must not have the words “school bus” in any location on the exterior of the vehicle or in any interior location visible to a motorist.

6. A “type III vehicle” must not be outwardly equipped and identified as a type A, B, C, or D bus.
7. Eight-lamp warning systems and stop arms must not be installed or used on type III vehicles.
8. Type III vehicles must be equipped with mirrors as required by law.
9. Any type III vehicle may not stop traffic and may not load or unload before making a complete stop and disengaging gears by shifting into neutral or park. Any type III vehicle used to transport students must not load or unload so that a student has to cross the road, except where not possible or impractical, then the driver or assistant must escort the student across the road. If the driver escorts the student across the road, then the motor must be stopped, the ignition key removed, the brakes set, and the vehicle otherwise rendered immobile.
10. Any type III vehicle used to transport students must carry emergency equipment including:
 - a. Fire extinguisher. A minimum of one 10BC rated dry chemical type fire extinguisher is required. The extinguisher must be mounted in a bracket, and must be located in the driver’s compartment and be readily accessible to the driver and passengers. A pressure indicator is required and must be easily read without removing the extinguisher from its mounted position.
 - b. First aid kit and body fluids cleanup kit. A minimum of a ten-unit first aid kit, and a body fluids cleanup kit is required. They must be contained in removable, moisture- and dust-proof containers mounted in an accessible place within the driver’s compartment and must be marked to indicate their identity and location.
 - c. Passenger cars and station wagons may carry a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, and warning triangles in the trunk or trunk area of the vehicle if a label in the driver and front passenger area clearly indicates the location of these items.
11. Student will not be regularly transported in private vehicles that are not state inspected as type III vehicles. Only emergency, unscheduled transportation may be conducted in vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or fewer without meeting the requirements for a type III vehicle. Also, parents may use a private vehicle to transport their own children under a contract with the district. The school district has no system of inspection for private vehicles.
12. All drivers of type III vehicles will be licensed drivers and will be familiar with the use of required emergency equipment. The school district will not knowingly

allow a person to operate a type III vehicle if the person has been convicted of an offense that disqualifies the person from operating a school bus.

13. Type III vehicles will be equipped with child passenger restraints, and child passenger restraints will be utilized to the extent required by law.

E. Type III Vehicle Driven by Employees with a Class D Driver's License

1. The holder of a class A, B, C, or D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a type III vehicle, described above, under the following conditions:
 - a. The operator is an employee of the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, which may include the school district.
 - b. The operator's employer, which may include the school district, has adopted and implemented a policy that provides for annual training and certification of the operator in:
 - (1) safe operation of a type III vehicle;
 - (2) understanding student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;
 - (3) encouraging orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of misconduct appropriately;
 - (4) knowing and understanding relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus safety policies;
 - (5) handling emergency situations;
 - (6) proper use of seat belts and child safety restraints;
 - (7) performance of pretrip vehicle inspections; ~~and~~
 - (8) safe loading and unloading of students, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) utilizing a safe location for loading and unloading students at the curb, on the nontraffic side of the roadway, or at off-street loading areas, driveways, yards, and other areas to enable the student to avoid hazardous conditions;
 - (b) refraining from loading and unloading students in a

vehicular traffic lane, on the shoulder, in a designated turn lane, or a lane adjacent to a designated turn lane;

- (c) avoiding a loading or unloading location that would require a student to cross a road, or ensuring that the driver or an aide personally escort the student across the road if it is not reasonably feasible to avoid such a location;
 - (d) placing the type III vehicle in “park” during loading and unloading;
 - (e) escorting a student across the road under clause (c) only after the motor is stopped, the ignition key is removed, the brake are set, and the vehicle is otherwise rendered immobile; and
- (9) compliance with paragraph V.F. concerning reporting convictions to the employer within ten days of the date of conviction.
- c. A background check or background investigation of the operator has been conducted that meets the requirements under Minn. Stat. § 122A.18, Subd. 8, or Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 for school district employees; Minn. Stat. § 144.057 or Minn. Stat. Ch. 245C for day care employees; or Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 3, for all other persons operating a type III vehicle under this section.
 - d. Operators shall submit to a physical examination as required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 2.
 - e. The operator’s requires preemployment drug testing of applicants for operator positions. Current operators must comply with the employer’s policy under Minn. Stat. § 181.951, Subds. 2, 4, and 5. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the operator’s employer may use a breathalyzer or similar device to fulfill random alcohol testing requirements.
 - f. The operator’s driver’s license is verified annually by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the type III vehicle as required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 5.
 - g. A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under Minn. Stat. §609.02, of violating Minn. Stat. § 169A.25, § 169A.26, § 169A.27 (driving while impaired offenses), or § 169A.31 (alcohol-

related school bus driver offenses), or whose driver's license is revoked under Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.50 to 169A.53 of the implied consent law, or who is convicted of violating or driver's license is revoked under a similar statute or ordinance of another state, is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for five years from the date of conviction.

- h. A person who has ever been convicted of a disqualifying offense as defined in Minn. Stat. § 171.3215, Subd.1(c), (*i.e.*, felony, controlled substance, criminal sexual conduct offenses, or offenses for surreptitious observation, indecent exposure, use of minor in a sexual performance, or possession of child pornography or display of pornography to a minor) may not operate a type III vehicle.
- i. A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under Minn. Stat. § 609.02, of a moving offense in violation of Minn. Stat. Ch. 169 within three years of the first of three other moving offenses is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for one year from the date of the last conviction.
- j. Students riding the type III vehicle must have training required under Minn. Stat. § 123B.90, Subd. 2 (See Section II.B., above).
- k. Documentation of meeting the requirements listed in this section must be maintained under separate file at the business location for each type III vehicle operator. The school district or any other entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the type III vehicle operating under this section is responsible for maintaining these files for inspection.

- 2. The type III vehicle must bear a current certificate of inspection issued under Minn. Stat. § 169.451.
- 3. An employee of the school district who is not employed for the sole purpose of operating a type III vehicle may, in the discretion of the school district, be exempt from paragraphs VIII.E.1.d. (physical examination) and VIII.E.1.e. (drug testing) above.

F. Type A-I “Activity” Buses Driven by Employees with Class D Driver’s License

- 1. The holder of a Class D driver’s license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a type A-I school bus or a Multifunctional School Activity Bus (MFSAB) under the following conditions:

- a. The operator is an employee of the school district or an independent contractor with whom the school district contracts for the school bus and is not solely hired to provide transportation services under this paragraph.
 - b. The operator drives the school bus only from points of origin to points of destination, not including home-to-school trips to pick up or drop off students.
 - c. The operator is prohibited from using the eight-light system if the vehicle is so equipped.
 - d. The operator has submitted to a background check and physical examination as required by Minn. Stat. 171.321, Subd. 2.
 - e. The operator has a valid driver's license and has not sustained a conviction of a disqualifying offense as set forth in Minn. Stat. 171.02, Subd. 2a(h) – 2a(j).
 - f. The operator has been trained in the proper use of child safety restraints as set forth in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-School Age Children in School Buses," if child safety restraints are used by passengers, in addition to the training required in Section VI, above.
 - g. The bus has a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,500 pounds or less and is designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver.
2. The school district shall maintain annual certification of the requirements listed in this section for each Class D license operator.
 3. A school bus operated under this section must bear a current certificate of inspection.
 4. The word "School" on the front and rear of the bus must be covered by a sign that reads "Activities" when the bus is being operated under authority of this section.

IX. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- A. If possible, school bus drivers or their supervisors shall call "911" or the local emergency phone number in the event of a serious emergency. Drivers will be familiar with first aid and CPR procedures. Drivers should administer proper first aid in accordance with their training and level of ability. In the event an injured passenger is taken to the hospital, record the students' name and the name of the hospital where the student is sent.

- B. School bus drivers shall meet the emergency training requirements contained in Unit III “Crash & Emergency Preparedness” of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual. This includes procedures in the event of a crash (accident).

[Note: The Model School Bus Driver Training Manual is available online through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Patrol web page.]

- C. School bus drivers and bus assistants for special education students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition shall be trained in basic first aid procedures, shall within one month after the effective date of assignment participate in a program of in-service training on the proper methods for dealing with the specific needs and problems of students with disabilities, assist students with disabilities on and off the bus when necessary for their safe ingress and egress from the bus; and ensure that protective safety devices are in use and fastened properly.
- D. Emergency Health Information shall be maintained on the school bus for students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition. The information shall state:
1. The student’s name and address;
 2. The nature of the student’s disabilities;
 3. Emergency health care information; and
 4. The names and telephone numbers of the student’s physician, parents, guardians or custodians, and some person other than the student’s parents or custodians who can be contacted in case of an emergency.

- E. Fire:

In the event of a fire, the first priority is to evacuate the bus. Drivers will make certain passengers are safe before attempting to put out the fire.

- F. Tornado:

If there is likelihood that a tornado will hit a vehicle, and there is no escape route available or no time to drive to a safe location, the driver should evacuate the bus, taking the first aid kit. The driver will take the students to the basement of a nearby building or to the nearest depression or ditch upwind (toward the storm) of the bus far enough away from the bus so that the bus will not roll over on them and instruct them to cover their heads with their arms. If the students are wearing coats or jackets, these can be used to provide additional protection for their heads and bodies. Drivers should take only the first aid kit from the bus.

If drivers are on the road when they hear a tornado warning or spot a funnel, and there is no time to evacuate the students after stopping the bus, drivers should have the students assume the protective position, remaining in their seats, with their heads below window level.

G. Evacuation:

Drivers should evacuate buses only when there is a danger of fire, collision or other potential hazard. Drivers should inform passengers that there is an emergency, and in very calm and precise terms, tell them exactly what they are to do. When safely possible, drivers will keep all evacuees a minimum of 100 feet from the bus. They should be loaded back onto the bus only when the driver has determined it is safe to do so.

H. Accident:

In case of an accident, the driver should immediately assess students for injuries and begin any emergency first aid procedures if necessary. The driver must also notify the school district and law enforcement of any school bus accidents immediately.

Upon providing emergency care and notifying the district, the driver shall:

1. In cooperation with police officer and/or ambulance service, assist with the care of students.
2. See that all injured students receive proper care.
3. Determine facts pertaining to the accident.
4. Call transportation/district staff to give a list of names and circumstances so they can begin calling parents.
5. Discuss the accident only with police and school district officials.
6. Record all students' names.
7. Not leave the scene of an accident until released by the driver's supervisor.

Before leaving for the day, the driver shall fill out an accident report. All bus accidents resulting in death, personal injury, or apparent property damage of more than \$4,400 will be reported to the Department of Public Safety. A school bus involved in such an accident may not transport pupils until it has been inspected by or has received a waiver from the State Patrol.

I. Cold Weather Stop:

If a driver is stuck or stalled in cold weather, the driver should call for assistance and wait for help. The driver should avoid relying on the engine to provide heat for the driver and passengers as long as possible. If it is necessary to run the engine to provide heat, the driver will make sure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow, open windows for ventilation, and check passengers frequently for headaches or drowsiness.

J. Dangerous Weapons:

If a driver observes or learns that a passenger may have a dangerous weapon on the bus, he or she should remain calm and call for assistance using a pre-determined code. The driver should give the location of the bus to the dispatcher, continue the route and wait for assistance. The driver should not inform the passenger suspected of having the weapon that he or she knows of the weapon.

K. Lights:

In an emergency stop, the driver should turn on the four-way hazard warning lights, and running or clearance lights.

L. Getting Assistance:

Use the two-way radio communications system to get assistance. Drivers should report the location and number of the bus, the nature of the problem, and the status of the passengers. If the driver cannot use a radio to contact the dispatcher, ask a passerby or other motorist to do so from the nearest telephone. The driver should write out the number and location of the school bus, the nature of the emergency, and the status of the passengers.

X. SCHOOL DISTRICT VEHICLE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

- A. All school vehicles shall be maintained in safe operating conditions through a systematic preventive maintenance and inspection program adopted or approved by the school district.
- B. All school vehicles shall be state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.
- C. A copy of the current daily pre-trip inspection report must be carried in the bus. Daily pre-trip inspections shall be maintained on file in accordance with the school district's record retention schedule. Prompt reports of defects to be immediately corrected will be submitted.
- D. Daily post-trip inspection shall be performed to check for any children or lost items remaining on the bus and for vandalism.

XI. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DIRECTOR

The school board has designated an individual to serve as the school district's school transportation safety director. The school transportation safety director shall have day-to-day responsibility for student transportation safety, including transportation of nonpublic school children when provided by the school district. The school transportation safety director will assure that this policy is periodically reviewed to ensure that it conforms to law. The school transportation safety director shall certify annually to the school board that

each school bus driver meets the school bus driver training competencies required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321, subd. 4. The transportation safety director also shall annually verify or ensure that the private contractor utilized by the school has verified the validity of the driver's license of each person who transports students for the school district in a type A, B, C, or D school bus, type III vehicle, or MFSAB with the National Driver's Register or the Department of Public Safety. Upon request of the school district superintendent or the superintendent of the school district where nonpublic students are transported, the school transportation safety director also shall certify to the superintendent that students have received school bus safety training in accordance with state law. The name, address and telephone number of the school transportation safety director are on file in the school district office. Any questions regarding student transportation or this policy may be addressed to the school transportation safety director.

XII. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

The school board may establish a student transportation safety committee. The chair of the student transportation safety committee is the school district's school transportation safety director. The school board shall appoint the other members of the student transportation safety committee. Membership may include parents, school bus drivers, representatives of school bus companies, local law enforcement officials, other school district staff, and representatives from other units of local government.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 122A.18, Subd. 8 (Board to Issue Licenses)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 (Background Check)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks, Individual Instructor or Cooperative Learning Material; Standard Tests)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent School Districts; Transportation)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.885 (Diesel School Buses; Operation of Engine; Parking)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.90 (School Bus Safety Training)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.91 (School District Bus Safety Responsibilities)
Minn. Stat. § 144.057 (Background Studies on Licensees and Other Personnel)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 169 (Traffic Regulations)
Minn. Stat. § 169.011, Subds. 15, 16 and 71 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 169.02 (Scope)
Minn. Stat. § 169.443 (Safety of School Children; Bus Driver's Duties)
Minn. Stat. § 169.446, Subds. 2 (Driver Training Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 169.451 (Inspecting School and Head Start Buses; Rules; Misdemeanor)
Minn. Stat. § 169.454 (Type III Vehicle Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 169.4582 (Reportable Offense on School Buses)
Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.25-169A.27 (Driving While Impaired)
Minn. Stat. § 169A.31 (Alcohol-Related School Bus or Head Start Bus Driving)

Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.50-169A.53 (Implied Consent Law)
Minn. Stat. § 171.02, subd. 2a (Licenses; Types, Endorsements, Restrictions)
Minn. Stat. § 171.168 (Notification of Conviction for Violation by a Commercial Driver)
Minn. Stat. § 171.169 (Notification of Suspension of License of Commercial Driver)
Minn. Stat. § 171.321 (Qualifications of a School Bus Driver)
Minn. Stat. § 171.3215, Subd. 1(c) (Canceling Bus Endorsement for Certain Offenses)
Minn. Stat. § 181.951 (Authorized Drug and Alcohol Testing)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 245C (Human Services Background Studies)
Minn. Stat. § 609.02 (Definitions)
Minn. Rules Part 7470.1000 - 7470.1700 (School Bus Inspection)
49 C.F.R. § 383.31 (Notification of Convictions for Driver Violations)
49 C.F.R. § 383.33 (Notification of Driver's License Suspensions)
49 C.F.R. § 383.5 (Transportation Definitions)

Cross References: District 77 Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)
District 77 Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
District 77 Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
District 77 Policy 707 (Transportation of Public Students)
District 77 Policy 708 (Transportation of Nonpublic Students)
District 77 Policy 710 (Extracurricular Transportation)

Notification to Employer Of Moving Violation Commercial Drivers License 49 CFR 383.31 Minnesota Statute 171.168		
Upon conviction of any moving violation by any state or local jurisdiction the holder of a Minnesota Commercial Driver License must notify their employer(s) in writing within 30 days of such conviction.		
DRIVER NAME (First Name, MI, Last Name)	STATE	
COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	DID THE VIOLATION HAPPEN IN A CMV? G YES G NO	
DATE OF CONVICTION		
LOCATION OF OFFENSE	CITY	STATE
DETAILS ABOUT THE OFFENSE, INCLUDING ANY RESULTING SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, OR CANCELLATION OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES:	DATE	
SIGNATURE OF DRIVER		

Notification to Employer Of Suspension, Revocation, Cancellation or Disqualification Commercial Drivers License 49 CFR 383.33 Minnesota Statute 171.169		
The holder of a Minnesota Commercial Driver License shall notify their employer(s) in writing of any suspension, revocation, cancellation, loss of privilege or disqualification, before the end of the business day following the day the driver (employee) received notice of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, loss of privilege or disqualification.		
DRIVER NAME (First Name, MI, Last Name)	STATE	
COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	DID THE VIOLATION HAPPEN IN A CMV? G YES G NO	
DATE OF CONVICTION		
LOCATION OF OFFENSE	CITY	STATE
DETAILS ABOUT THE OFFENSE, INCLUDING ANY RESULTING SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, OR CANCELLATION OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES:		DATE
SIGNATURE OF DRIVER		

