

## **STUDENT SAFETY WALKING AND RIDING BUSES TO SCHOOL**

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### **Student Conduct on Buses**

Any misconduct by a student, which in the opinion of the bus driver or bus supervisor, is detrimental to the safe operation of the bus will be sufficient cause for the transportation administration to suspend the transportation privilege.

The student or parent of a student who has been suspended from receiving transportation entitlements may appeal the transportation administration decision by submitting a written statement to the lead Student Services administrator who will render a decision after evaluating the issues and facts involved. If the decision is based on issues unrelated to those described in the district's Rules of Conduct for Students Riding Buses (set forth below), the decision will require board concurrence before implementation.

### **Rules of Conduct for Students Riding Buses:**

- A. Students will obey the driver and any aide assigned to the bus by the district. The driver is in full charge of the bus and passengers and will be obeyed. If an aide is assigned to the bus by the district, he/she will be responsible for the safe operation of the bus. When transporting classes or teams, the teacher or coach will be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students. Students will obey both the driver and the teacher, coach or other staff member.
- B. Students will ride only on their assigned bus unless written permission to do otherwise has been received by school officials.
- C. Students will not be permitted to leave the bus except at their regular stop unless written permission to do otherwise is received by school officials.
- D. Students assigned seats will use only that seat unless permission to change is authorized by the driver.
- E. Students will observe rules of classroom conduct while riding on buses. Noise will be kept down to avoid distracting the driver. Students will refrain from the use of obscene language or gestures.
- F. Students will not use tobacco products, e-cigarettes or ignite lighters or matches on buses.
- G. Students will not possess, use, sell or deliver illegal or controlled chemical substances, including marijuana or substances containing marijuana and alcoholic beverages on buses. The possession and/or use of items reasonably determined to be drug paraphernalia is also prohibited on buses.
- H. Students will not eat on buses, except when specifically authorized and supervised by and accompanying teacher, coach or other staff member. Buses will be kept clean.
- I. Students will not open bus windows without the driver's permission.

- J. Students will not extend any part of their body out of bus windows at any time.
- K. Students will not carry or have in their possession items that can cause injury to passengers on the bus. Such items include, but are not limited to, sticks, breakable containers, weapons or firearms, straps or pins protruding from clothing, large, bulky items which cannot be held or placed between legs, etc. Books and personal belongings will be kept out of aisles.
- L. Students will not have animals on buses, except one providing assistance to a disabled student.
- M. Students will not sit in the driver's seat or to the immediate right or left of the driver.
- N. Students will refrain from talking to the driver unless necessary.
- O. Students will go directly to a seat once inside the bus and remain seated at all times unless the driver instructs otherwise.
- P. Students will get on/off the bus in an orderly manner and will obey the instructions of the driver or school safety patrolmen on duty. There will be no pushing and shoving when boarding or leaving the bus. Once off the bus, students will adhere to rules for pedestrians.
- Q. Students will never cross the roadway behind a bus unless they use pedestrian crosswalks or traffic lights.
- R. Students will stand away from the roadway curb when any bus is approaching or leaving a stop.
- S. Students going to and from their bus stops where there are no sidewalks will walk on the left-hand side of the roadway facing oncoming traffic. Students will go directly to their home after leaving the bus.
- T. Students will use lap belts on buses when available.
- U. Students will follow emergency exit drill procedures as prescribed by the driver.
- V. Students will not tamper with emergency doors or equipment.
- W. Students will remain quietly seated, not exhibit disruptive behavior and turn off all noise-making devices at highway rail grade crossings.
- X. Parents of students identified as causing damage to buses will be charged with the cost of the incurred damage. Students causing the damage may be suspended from transportation.
- Y. Student misconduct will constitute sufficient reason for suspending transportation privileges.

### **PBIS & Inappropriate Behavior**

The Mead School District Transportation Department (bus drivers & para educators) uses Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to address appropriate and inappropriate

student behavior while riding the school bus. Information from the Transportation Department Employee's Handbook on PBIS and the consequences for inappropriate behavior is attached and is considered a part of this procedure.

**Adopted: April 30, 2007**

**Revised: July 25, 2019**