

5131.1/Student Conduct on School Buses

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: **5000**
CATEGORY: **Students**
POLICY CODE: **5131.1/Student
Conduct on School
Buses**

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Policy Statement

The Trumbull Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain appropriate conduct on school buses. School transportation privileges are extended to students conditional upon their satisfactory behavior on the bus.

The school administration may suspend transportation services for any student whose misconduct while awaiting transportation, receiving transportation to and from school, or proceeding to his/her home or destination subsequent to receiving transportation at the end of the school day endangers persons or property or violates a Board policy or administrative regulation. The bus driver will report in writing any infraction of the rules to the Transportation Manager, who will forward the report to the appropriate school administrator. Reports will be made within 24 hours, and immediately for any serious infraction. The school administrator will take appropriate disciplinary action and inform the student's parent/guardian. Serious or continuous infractions may result in suspension of transportation privileges. The principal or his/her designee has the authority to deny bus transportation, in the interest of safety, to any student who disobeys bus regulations.

Adopted: 10/5/1976
Revised: 7/25/1995, 11/5/1997,
11/13/2012, 5/26/2020

References

- Connecticut General Statutes § 10-186
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 3541: Transportation
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 3541.6: Emergency Bus Evacuation
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5131: Student Standard of Conduct
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5131.6: Student Use and Possession of Smoking Products, Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5131.911: Bullying and Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention

Regulations

These regulations are instituted for the safety of the riders on school buses. Strict obedience is necessary in order to insure the safety of everyone.

I. Bus Rules for Students

A. Loading

1. Students must make sure all drawstrings, ties, straps, scarves, toggles, etc., on all clothing, backpacks, and other items are shortened or removed so they will not get caught in bus doors, railings, or aisles.
2. Students are assigned to a specific bus stop. Students must only take their assigned bus morning and afternoon.
3. Students should be at their assigned stop five minutes before their scheduled time. Students are to wait in a safe place away from the street.
4. Students should show respect for all property near the bus stop. All standards for student conduct apply when students are at bus stops.
5. Students must cross the street only on the bus driver's signal.
6. Students must stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the bus driver signals them to board. Students should walk in a single-file line without pushing. Students should use handrails to board the bus.
7. Students should take a seat immediately and remain seated facing forward with their backpack and other carry-on items as close to their persons as possible.
8. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to use the District-provided bus tracking application to monitor bus arrival times. Buses cannot wait for tardy students who are not at their assigned stops at their designated times.

B. Riding

1. Students must always listen to the bus driver's instructions.
2. Students must be courteous to the bus driver and other students. Students must keep their hands to themselves.
3. Students are expected to talk in normal tones. Ordinary conversation is permitted. Loud talking, laughter, and unnecessary confusion can divert the bus driver's attention and could result in a serious accident. Students must refrain from using indecent or profane language, as well as language that is or could be interpreted as inflammatory, inciting, or threatening.
4. Students should keep the bus neat and clean. Students should keep belongings out of the aisle and away from emergency exits. Eating, drinking, and/or smoking are not allowed on the bus.
5. Students must not stand while the bus is moving.
6. Students must keep their hands, arms, and head inside the bus at all times.
7. Students shall not throw things in the bus or throw things out of the windows of the bus.
8. Students shall refrain from verbal and physical harassment as well as disorderly conduct and bullying.
9. Students must not touch the emergency doors and/or windows unless instructed to do so by the bus driver.

5131.1/Student Conduct on School Buses

10. Students shall get off the bus at their assigned stop.
11. Students must not carry potentially dangerous items on the bus, such as, but not limited to, firearms, knives, explosives, sharp instruments, glassware, and other dangerous objects which are prohibited in school buildings and on school grounds. The use and/or possession of all smoking products, tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol is prohibited at all times on all buses or other transportation vehicles under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, as is the use and/or possession of electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products. "Tobacco product" and "electronic nicotine delivery system" carry the same definitions as in Board of Education Policy 5131.6, "Student Use and Possession of Smoking Products, Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol."
12. Students must not scratch, mar, break, cut, write on, or deface in any manner any part of the bus.

C. Unloading

1. Students must only leave the bus at their assigned stop or at the school unless they are given permission from school authorities.
2. Students must not stand up until the bus has stopped.
3. Students should use handrails when leaving the bus.
4. Students who must cross the street after getting off the bus must wait for the bus driver's signal and then cross 6 feet in front of the bus. Students should cross the street only after checking both ways for traffic.
5. Students must wait 10 feet away from the bus, out of the danger zone, where the bus driver can see them, and begin walking after the bus has left.
6. Students must go directly home in an orderly manner.
7. Students must not return to the bus after leaving the bus. If a student forgets an item on the bus or drops something near the bus, he/she must never attempt to retrieve the item. The student should alert the driver visually or orally, if possible, from outside of the danger zone; if the driver does not respond, then the student should tell his/her parent(s)/guardian(s), who can contact the Transportation Manager for retrieval of the property.

II. Violation of Bus Rules

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain appropriate conduct on school buses. Accordingly, the Board of Education authorizes the installation of video cameras on school buses as an aid in monitoring student behavior. These cameras produce video and audio coverage and will be used to assist school administrators in deciding upon appropriate disciplinary action. When, in the professional judgment of the administrator, a student has violated the bus rules, the administrator will follow the procedures of Board of Education Policy 5131, "Student Standard of Conduct." The standards for student conduct apply when students are on the bus and also when students are at bus stops.