

SCHOOL BUS CONDUCT RULES

In order to maximize 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, policy **JIC**, 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. Students should arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. The bus cannot wait for those who are not on time. If a student misses the bus, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to transport the student to school.
2. Students 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 students to get on the bus.
3. Students shall wait in an orderly line and avoid horseplay.
4. Students may 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. Students shall go directly to an available or assigned seat when entering the bus and move in toward the window.
6. Students 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 their 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 safely on their own lap. Musical instruments, athletic equipment bags and the like must be placed in the area designated by the driver.
10. Students shall refrain from throwing or passing objects on, from or into buses.
11. Students shall refrain from eating on the bus

12. Students 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 windows without permission of the driver.
15. Only authorized riders are permitted on the bus.
16. When necessary, students will be expected to sit three passengers to a seat.
17. Students are strictly prohibited from possessing or 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. Students shall not use profane language or obscene gestures, and shall make any 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. 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.**

In keeping with the Student Code of Conduct policy **JIC**, the following consequences will depend on the severity of the violations of behavioral expectations stated in section A:

- Warning: A verbal warning will be issued by the bus driver.
- Parent Notification: A letter of warning will be sent to the student's parents/guardians, with a copy kept on file in the School Administrator's Office and the Transportation Coordinator.
- Suspension of District Bus Privileges: Parents/guardians are responsible to transport or arrange other transportation for their children to and from school during the period of District transportation suspension.

- Suspension From School: Student is suspended from attending school.
- Police Referral, Expulsion, Board Review

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 student's parent/guardian.

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

If a student's 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 discipline 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

Adopted: **03/13/2023**