

## Students

### Conduct on School Buses

The Board of Education is responsible for the health and safety of students. Because conduct on buses is directly related to the driver's control of the vehicle and to the safety of all students aboard, the Board considers bus misconduct to be a serious offense and therefore the subject of disciplinary action reasonably appropriate to the nature and frequency of the offense. Misconduct while awaiting or receiving transportation to and from school may require suspension from school and/or from the school bus for varying periods of time not to exceed 10 school days in each instance. Any student suspended from busing for more than 50 days or more than 10 times, whichever comes first will be subject to expulsion from school buses. In case of suspension or expulsion from school buses, the parents or guardians shall continue to be responsible for their child's attendance at school.

The driver of a school bus shall exercise disciplinary authority while the bus is in operation and will refer any student who willfully violates bus regulations to the school Principal or designated administrator. The Principal or designated administrator will then take such action as deemed advisable in each case.

In September of each year, principals shall issue written bus regulations, as approved by the Board, to parents and will have them explained orally to students.

In September and April of each year, and at such additional times as are necessary throughout the year, the Principal or a designee shall instruct students in safe riding practices, including drill in emergency evacuation of buses.

The following rules of behavior shall govern student conduct on school buses:

1. Students must be at designated bus stops at the scheduled times. Bus drivers will not wait for stragglers.
2. Students shall obey safety rules when waiting for a bus, boarding or leaving the bus, and crossing the street.
3. Students will enter the bus by the front door. Students must remain seated at all times while the bus is in motion. Students may leave their seats only when the bus is stopped and directed by the driver or stopped at their destination.
4. In the interests of safety and of maintaining good order, the driver may request students to change seats.
5. Students will be courteous to the bus driver and other students at all times.

## Students

### Conduct on School Buses (continued)

6. Students may not have pets or other disruptive-causing articles with them.
7. Students shall not damage or deface school buses nor shall they throw articles at them or out of the bus. Students shall not leave trash on the bus.
8. Students who abuse or destroy property shall be held responsible, their parents or guardians will pay for the cost of repairing the damage.
9. Students shall not smoke or use matches or lighters, or use or possess tobacco, alcohol, or any controlled substance on the bus.
10. Students must show bus permits, if requested, when boarding or leaving the bus. In the event that a regularly transported student is unable to produce a bus permit, she or he shall be allowed to ride the bus for one day only, within which time she or he must obtain a new pass.  

If a student repeatedly is unable to show his or her bus permit, his or her transportation may be suspended.
11. Bus permits are not transferable.
12. The emergency door must not be opened, except in emergencies.
13. Students shall not engage in disruptive behavior. Shouting, profanity, and abusive language will not be tolerated.
14. After having been duly warned, any student continuing in disruptive behavior while awaiting or receiving transportation to and from school will be reported to the school Principal or designated administrator for appropriate action, which may include suspension from school and/or from the school bus for varying periods of time not to exceed 10 school days in each instance nor to exceed a total of 50 days or 10 times, whichever comes first. Any student exceeding these limits will be subject to expulsion.

(cf. 5114/5114.1 - Suspension/Expulsion; Due Process)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance.  
10-220 Duties of boards of education  
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules  
10-233c Suspension of students  
New London High School Student Handbook, 2004-05, pp. 20-21

Policy adopted: December 8, 2005  
NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New London, Connecticut

## Students

### Conduct on School Buses

#### Reporting Misconduct on School Buses

Responsibility	Action
<b>Bus Driver</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="824 579 1443 646">1. Warns offending student following first offense and reports major offenses.  No driver may refuse transportation to a student designated by the Board of Education as having the privilege of riding, nor may the driver discharge any student enroute, unless it is the student's authorized stop.  When several students are involved and they cannot be identified, the driver will pull the bus to the side of the road and stop the bus with lights flashing. He will then warn the group to stop their misbehavior and continue enroute, if possible. In either situation the school administration will be immediately informed of the situation and of what happened to all the riders.</li><li data-bbox="824 1310 1443 1377">2. Reports student to Principal if poor conduct continues.</li><li data-bbox="824 1419 1443 1486">3. Meets with student and Principal to report charges.</li></ol>
<b>Principal or Designated Administrator</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="824 1535 1443 1896">1. Investigates offense with student and driver. Depending on the severity of the offense, the Principal or the designated administrator has the authority in his or her discretion to suspend the student from school and/or the school bus for varying periods of time not to exceed ten school days in each instance nor to exceed a total of 50 days, or 10 times, whichever comes first.</li></ol>

**Students**

**Conduct on School Buses**

**Reporting Misconduct on School Buses (continued)**

<b>Principal or Designated Administrator</b> (continued)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Informs parents of the offense and the disciplinary action taken by telephone and/or mail.</li><li>3. Reports suspension of student to Superintendent.</li></ol>
---	---