

RSU#68 & FOXCROFT ACADEMY SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AND RIDING REGULATIONS

The riding of tax-supported school buses to and from the schools of RSU #68 and Foxcroft Academy is a privilege granted by the Board of Directors and conditional on each rider's individual behavior and observance of the Safety and Riding Regulations. Drivers are authorized to enforce these rules and to make decisions as necessary in the interest of the safe conveyance of school children. Failure to comply with the regulations or wishes of the bus driver may result in suspension or expulsion of riding privileges.

All pupils shall be ready in the morning at the usual time the bus arrives at their homes or at the designated bus stop. Due to school schedule, the bus cannot wait for those who are tardy.

BUS SAFETY REGULATIONS

1. Be respectful to the bus driver and do not distract him/her.
2. Report all emergencies to the driver immediately.
3. Sit properly in the seat while the bus is in motion.
4. Do not run, push or shove while entering or exiting the bus. Always wait for the driver to fully open the door.
5. Do not litter or clutter the bus aisle.
6. Do not place any part of your body outside of the bus at any time.
7. If the student must cross in front of the bus, he/she should walk at least 12 feet in front of the bus, wait for the driver to give the "thumbs up", stop when he/she reaches the drivers' side and look both ways. Continue when clear by walking to the other side of the street. NEVER run back to the bus for any reason.
8. While waiting for the bus, students should stay out of the roadway and not engage in play or activity that can be dangerous or distracting to motorists or the oncoming bus.
9. Do not stop to pick up dropped objects near the bus. Leave them for an adult.
10. **Permission from parents or guardians for changes in destinations for their bus rider must be given to the child's teacher in order to receive a bus pass. Students must have bus passes in order for changes to be made. Prior approval from bus companies must be obtained for students changing buses or a non-rider riding a bus.**
11. The following articles are not allowed on regular bus runs; sleds, skis and ski poles, hockey sticks, animals of any type, large school projects, large music instruments, spiked cleats, and any other object that may interfere with the safety of the passengers or the safe operation of the bus.

BUS RIDING REGULATIONS

1. Students will sit properly in the seats and remain seated while the bus is in motion.
2. *Students will be respectful of the bus driver and refrain from the use of loud, boisterous, vulgar or inappropriate language or gestures at all times.
3. While entering, exiting, or moving on the bus, students will walk in an orderly fashion and not push or shove others.
4. Students will not place any part of their body out the windows nor display any inappropriate gestures through the windows.
5. *There will be no use or display of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or flame-producing device. The possession of any knife or weapon is strictly prohibited and will be referred to law enforcement officials.
6. *There will be no throwing of any object within or out of the bus at any time.
7. *There will be no fighting while riding the bus.
8. There will be no lollipops, nuts, seeds, or popcorn consumed on the bus at any time.
9. No perfumes, colognes, sprays or hand gels may be used on the bus.

10. Pictures and videos taken on the bus of other students are prohibited except in the case of capturing a student doing something wrong or unsafe. Headphones/earbuds must be used when using devices on the bus.

*Violations 2,5,6 & 7 will result in immediate suspension. Violations of any other regulations may as well, if the driver determines it necessary and justified.

CONSEQUENCES

Drivers of school buses are authorized to enforce the safety and riding regulations and to make decisions as necessary in the interest of the safe conveyance of school children. If children fail to comply with the regulations or the wishes of the bus driver, suspension or expulsion from riding privileges may result.

Discipline forms will be used by all drivers to keep students, parents, school and contractor informed about noncompliance of regulations. These will be given directly to the students, mailed to the parents or given to school officials and must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the bus driver before the student is allowed to continue riding.

Depending upon the severity and nature of the incident will determine the consequences. As the riding regulations state, numbers 2, 5, 6, & 7 will result in immediate suspension; however others may also if the driver determines it necessary. In most cases, the first suspension will be for 3 days, the second suspension will be for 5 days and if misbehavior results in a third suspension, riding privileges will be suspended for the remainder of the school year or until the bus driver, contractor, parents and student meet with the Superintendent to determine whether the student will be allowed to ride the school bus.

The bus disciplinary form will explain the incident and consequences and must be returned to the driver before the student is allowed to continue riding. These notices will be kept on file throughout the school year at both the school and the contractor's office.

IT MUST BE NOTED THAT ANY STUDENT SUSPENDED FROM ONE BUS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RIDE ON ANY OTHER BUS. THIS INCLUDES SPORT EVENTS, FIELD TRIPS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, ETC.

Parents are encouraged to contact the bus contractor if they have any questions or concerns. Drivers will make themselves available to explain any incident in question and how they determined the consequences. If any parent is not satisfied with his/her communication with the contractor or driver, they should then contact the Superintendent.

ALL students K-12th grade and their parent /guardian must sign this riders' contract each year at the beginning of school. It is the expectation that our students know the safety and riding regulations and consequences as they will usually ride a bus at some point during the year.

Student Name Printed _____ Student Grade _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Address _____

Phone _____