

**APPENDIX 2
STUDENT CONDUCT ON BUSES**

TO: Parents of Transported Students

FROM: Bethel Board of Education

The school bus driver has a great responsibility. Each day the bus carries a "precious cargo" and the driver's only concern should be to see that all passengers are transported to and from school safely. Unfortunately, there are times when children (young and old) do things that cause the driver to be distracted from the job. This is dangerous and cannot be allowed. It is necessary therefore, that Student Conduct Rules and Regulations be in force and that they be followed without question. Parents must see that their child understands the importance of good behavior while riding a bus.

Riding a school bus is not a right but a privilege granted to those who are eligible and are able to abide by the rules and regulations. It is not right that a student be allowed to ride a school bus when the student continues to jeopardize the safety of others. The board of education realizes that a hardship may result in having to take your child to and from school but it is sometimes necessary.

Therefore, the school system must have parents sign an agreement that their child will abide by the rules and regulations. If the rules are broken, punishment will be administered on an increased scale. Students will be given three opportunities to correct their behavioral problems. Students will have a choice of three alternatives each time. 1) Not riding the bus; 2) In-school suspension; 3) Punishment befitting the offense (for example, writing on seats will result in having to clean bus seats). On the fourth offense, the student will have no choice: he/she will no longer be allowed to ride the bus. Suspension will be for the remainder of the semester or the school year. This applies only to students in grades 5 through 12. There will be no counseling with them. They have read the rules and you have gone over it with them. Punishment will be immediate, and by the principal of the respective school.

If a student shows an uncontrolled malicious disregard for the safety and well-being of the passengers and driver, it is possible that immediate suspension will occur without going through the above procedure.

The bus driver accepts the responsibility of getting your child to and from school safely. Therefore, what the driver observes and reports to the principal is final. The driver is not there to determine the right or wrong of one student in a dispute with another, but is there to report any misconduct or behavior that might interfere with the proper operation of the school bus.

For students in K through 4th grades, counseling will be provided for controlling discipline and conduct problems, with occasionally some punishment assessed after counseling fails. Only in very rare cases is it necessary to deny riding privileges to students in grades K-4.

Any student who is involved in damage to a school bus will be required to pay for the damage.

APPENDIX 2, STUDENT CONDUCT ON BUSES (Cont.)**BUS RIDER RULES**

Riding a school bus is a privilege and the privilege may be removed for not abiding by the bus rider rules.

Prior to loading, students should:

1. Be on time at the designated school bus stops--keep the bus on schedule.
2. Stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus.
3. Not move toward the bus at the school loading zone until the bus has been brought to a complete stop.
4. Respect people and their property while waiting on the bus.
5. Receive proper school official authorization to be discharged at places other than the regular bus stop.

While on the bus, students should:

1. Keep all parts of the body inside the bus.
2. Refrain from eating and drinking on the bus.
3. Refrain from the use of any form of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
4. Assist in keeping the bus safe and clean at all times.
5. Remember that loud talking and laughing or unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and may result in a serious accident. (The life you save may be your own.)
6. Treat bus equipment as they would valuable furniture in their own homes. Damage to seats, etc., must be paid for by the offender.
7. Should never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment.
8. Maintain possession of books, lunches, or other articles and keep the aisle clear.
9. Help look after the safety and comfort of small children.
10. Not throw objects into or out of the bus.
11. Remain in their seats while the bus is in motion.
12. Refrain from horseplay and fighting on the school bus.

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13. Be courteous to fellow students and the bus driver.
14. Remain quiet when approaching a railroad crossing stop.
15. Remain in the bus during road emergencies except when it may be hazardous to their safety.

After leaving the bus, students should:

1. Go at least ten (10) feet in front of the bus, stop, check traffic, wait for bus driver's signal, then cross road.
2. Go home immediately, staying clear of traffic.
3. Help look after the safety and comfort of small children.

Extracurricular Trips

1. The above rules and regulations should apply to all trips under school sponsorship.
2. Sponsors should be appointed by the school officials.

TIPS FOR SAFE SCHOOL BUS RIDING

For a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school, follow these rules:

1. Leave home early enough to arrive at your bus stop on time.
2. Wait for your bus in a safe place well off the roadway.
3. Enter your bus in an orderly manner and take your seat.
4. Follow the instructions of your school bus driver or bus patrol.
5. Remain in your seat while your bus is in motion.
6. Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times.
7. Keep aisles clear at all times.
8. Remain quiet and orderly.
9. Be courteous to your school bus driver and fellow passengers.
10. Be alert to traffic when leaving the bus.

APPENDIX 2, STUDENT CONDUCT ON BUSES (Cont.)

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW. IN ORDER TO RIDE THE SCHOOL BUS, THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SCHOOL.

(Turn in the form to your teacher, bus driver, or principal. Form may be included in student handbook with the Bus Rider Rules.)

To the Bethel Public School System:

We have read and discussed with our child(ren) the school bus policy and rules.

We agree with the school system that these rules should be in force and that any student who cannot abide by these simple rules should be disciplined and/or counseled with according to the school's policy.

As parents, we ask that the school contact us by telephone or written letter each time our children are involved in incidents so that we might further counsel our child(ren) on proper bus conduct.

Sincerely,

Parent's Signature

Date

Phone Number

Please write in the names and grade of each child in your family who will ride the school bus. This statement will be in effect for the current school year.

_____	Grade _____
_____	Grade _____
_____	Grade _____
_____	Grade _____
_____	Grade _____