Student Conduct on Buses

Riding the school bus is a privilege for students, not a right.

Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding School District vehicles as are expected on school property or at school activities, functions, or events, and additional specific transportation safety rules. All school rules are in effect while a student is riding a District vehicle or at a school transportation stop.

Students who make use of District-provided transportation shall have a duty and a responsibility to follow the rules laid out in this policy and any additional rules set by their driver. Drivers shall instruct students in appropriate behavior in accordance with this policy and any other applicable rules.

The Superintendent shall establish written rules of conduct for students riding in school vehicles. Such rules shall be reviewed annually by the Superintendent and revised if necessary. If the rules are substantially revised, they shall be submitted to the Board for approval.

A copy of the rules of conduct for students using District transportation shall be provided to students at the beginning of the year. The classroom teacher and driver shall review the rules with the students at the beginning of each school year. A copy of the rules shall be posted in each bus and shall be available upon request at the District office and in each building principal's office.

The driver shall be responsible for enforcing the rules, and shall work closely with parent and building principal to modify a student's behavior. The rules shall include consistent consequences for student misbehavior.

Due Process

The student and parent/guardian of the student shall receive notice of inappropriate conduct and have the opportunity to address the conduct with school personnel. Recommendations for temporary or permanent termination of transportation privileges will be referred to the Superintendent or their designee for final determination. The termination may be appealed to the Board. No further appeal shall be allowed.

A recommendation to terminate transportation privileges shall be accompanied by a written record of the incident(s) that led to the recommendation. Said written record shall be provided to the parent/guardian of the student whose transportation privileges are being revoked.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

If a student's IEP team determines that special transportation is required and documents it on the IEP, all procedures under the IDEA 2004 must be followed with regards to the student and transportation. A suspension from District transportation depends on whether transportation is identified on the IEP:

1. If District transportation is on the IEP, a suspension from the vehicle would be treated as a suspension from school. An exception to this is if the District provides transportation in some other way, such as transportation in lieu of, because transportation is necessary.
2. If District transportation is not on the IEP, a suspension from the vehicle would not be counted as suspension from school. In this situation, the student and the parent would have the same obligation to get to and from school as a student without a disability who had been suspended from the District transportation.

Cross Reference:

3330	Student Discipline
8120	Bus Routes, Stops, and Non-Transportation Zones
8130	Transportation of Students with Disabilities

Legal Reference:

I.C. § 33-1501	Transportation Authorized
I.C. § 33-1506	Inspection of School Authorized Vehicles
I.C. § 33-1509	School Bus Drivers -Definition-Qualifications-Duties
I.C. § 33-205	Denial of School Attendance
I.C. § 33-512	District Trustees – Governance of Schools
I.C. § 33-1006	Transportation Support Program
I.C. § 33-1504	Authorized Vehicles
I.C. § 33-1515	Requirements for Authorized Vehicles for the Transportation of Pupils to and from School and School-Related Events

Policy History:
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