

2026-2027 BUS RULES AND REGULATIONS MINNEOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MINNEOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

504 N MONROE

MINNEOTA, MN 56264

WWW.MINNEOTASCHOOLS.ORG

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #414
MINNEOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS - MINNEOTA, MN 56264

August 2026

Dear Viking Families and Students:

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year!

Minneota Public Schools and 4.0 Bus Service are committed to providing safe, efficient, and reliable transportation for our students each day. Whether students are traveling to and from school, activities, or other school-sponsored events, safety remains our highest priority. We value our partnership with families and appreciate the trust you place in us to transport your children safely.

To help ensure a safe transportation environment for everyone, it is important that students and families understand and follow the expectations outlined in this handbook. School bus rules are designed to protect the safety and well-being of all passengers, drivers, and others who share our roads.

Every student, regardless of age, has a responsibility to follow bus safety rules and demonstrate respectful behavior while riding the bus and while waiting at bus stops. Students should understand that careless, unsafe, or disruptive behavior can place themselves and others at risk and may result in disciplinary consequences, including the loss of transportation privileges.

Please take a few minutes to review the transportation rules and expectations with your child. Working together, we can help ensure that every student arrives at school and returns home safely each day.

Thank you for your partnership and support. We look forward to another successful school year. Please review the school transportation rules and expectations in this document with your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scott J. Monson".

Scott Monson, Superintendent

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I. Authorized Riders

Only students and staff assigned to a school bus by Minneota Public Schools may be transported. Students may not ride a bus other than their assigned bus unless prior permission has been granted by the school district.

II. Riding a Different Bus

If a student wishes to ride a different bus or be dropped off at a location other than their regular assigned stop, the student must bring a written note from a parent or guardian to the appropriate Principal, or the Principal's designee, in advance. Permission must be granted before the student may ride a different bus.

III. Alternate Transportation Address

A parent or guardian may designate, pursuant to school district policy, an alternate transportation address for their child. This may include a day care facility, respite care facility, the residence of a relative, or the residence of another person chosen by the parent or guardian.

The designated address must be located within the attendance area of the assigned school and must meet all other transportation eligibility requirements. Changes to transportation arrangements must be communicated to the school district in advance and approved before taking effect.

IV. Conduct on School Buses and at Bus Stops

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school district's general student behavior expectations apply to all students while riding the bus, waiting at the bus stop, loading or unloading, and participating in school-sponsored transportation.

Students are expected to follow the directions of the bus driver, treat others respectfully, remain seated when required, use appropriate language, and avoid any behavior that could distract the driver or create a safety concern.

Consequences for school bus or bus stop misconduct may be imposed by 4.0 Bus Service, a Principal or school administrator, and/or the school district in accordance with adopted discipline procedures. Misconduct may result in parent/guardian contact, assigned seating, suspension of bus-riding privileges, or other appropriate disciplinary action.

All school bus and bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school district's transportation safety director. Serious misconduct or conduct that creates a safety risk may also be reported to local law enforcement.

A. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules

The 4.0 Bus Service and the school district school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. The Bus Service's and school district's discipline procedures must be followed if these rules are broken. In most circumstances, the consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. The school bus driver must report unacceptable behavior to the 4.0 Bus Service manager.

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B. Rules at the Bus Stop

1. Get to your bus stop [at least] 3 minutes before your scheduled pickup time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
2. Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
3. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
4. Use appropriate language.
5. Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
6. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
7. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
8. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
9. Do not fight, harass, intimidate, or engage in horseplay.
10. Do not use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
11. Follow all other School District policies.

C. Rules on the Bus

1. Immediately follow the directions the driver gives.
2. Sit in your seat, facing forward.
3. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
5. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
6. Do not fight, harass, intimidate, or engage in horseplay.
7. Do not throw any objects.
8. No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
9. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
10. Do not damage the school bus.
11. Eating or drinking on the bus is left to the bus driver's discretion.
12. Follow all other School District policies.

D. Consequences

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes, co-curricular events, and extracurricular events (field trips or competitions). Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with cocurricular and extracurricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges. All decisions are made by 4.0 Bus Service in conjunction with the school district.

Consequences for PreK-12 Students

1st offense	Warning & parent notification.
2nd offense	Up to a 3 school-day suspension from riding the bus & parent notification.
3rd offense	Up to a 5 school-day suspension from riding the bus & parent notification.
Further offenses	Individually considered. Students may be suspended for longer periods of time, including the remainder of the school year.

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1. Other Discipline

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school may also result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

2. Records

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that are reasonably believed to cause an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons, or property shall be provided by the school district to local law enforcement and the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law. Records may also be maintained in the transportation office.

3. Vandalism/Bus Damage

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay for such damages [or arrange to pay] within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until paid.

4. Notice

School bus and bus stop rules and consequences for violations of these rules will be reviewed with students annually and copies of these rules will be made available to students. School bus rules are to be posted on each school bus.

5. Criminal Conduct

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example: assault, weapons possession, or vandalism), the appropriate school district personal and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

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SCHOOL LATE STARTS AND SCHOOL CLOSING PROCEDURES

Delaying or closing school because of bad weather is a decision that is often made with short notice to students, parents, and staff, although I try to inform everyone as soon as a decision has been made. I have found that a late start due to fog or limited visibility is one of the more difficult decisions, as fog and limited visibility can be spotty or move in after buses are sent out. For me, these decisions are based on common sense, and I make decisions focused on the safety of our students, staff, and families.

Given the weather conditions when school is open, parents may not want to send their child on the bus – while we always want your child in school, we also respect parents' right to keep their child/ren home. We utilize SchoolMessenger as the initial contact with families when there is an early dismissal, late start, or school is cancelled for the day. Additionally, a list of radio/TV stations that the school contacts are noted in student handbooks.

Several tasks occur before deciding to either delay or close school. Depending on weather and road conditions, the decision on a late start or close for the day is made as early as possible, typically before 6:00 a.m. It is possible that the weather will dictate a variation.

If we proceed with a late start, the decision to remain closed or open two hours late is made as early as possible, typically around 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast [free to all students] is still served when school is on a two-hour late start. Morning school activities and field trips will be canceled or rescheduled for another day.**

All school activities, practices, and community education events are canceled if school is closed early or canceled for the day. The Activities Director may make exceptions, in consultation with other school staff and administration.

Once the decision is made to close early, radio/TV stations will be notified, and an announcement is made through our district's automated messaging system that the school will be closing, including the time buses will leave. Both staff and students should have an alternate place to stay if the weather does not permit them to go home.

Given the use of cell phones, word travels quickly on school day changes which sometimes is helpful and other times causes confusion. School closing procedures allow staff to have an orderly process for getting the students home safely.

My first priority continues to be the safety and well-being of our students, staff, bus drivers, and families. For questions, please reach out to the elementary, high school, or district office.

In education,



Scott Monson
Superintendent

scott.monson@minneotaschools.org
507-872-6175