



Mid-Prairie Community School District Bus Discipline Policy and Student Responsibilities



TRANSPORTATION · A PRIVILEGE

Riding the school bus is a privilege and all students are expected to follow safe riding practices.

Each transported student has the right to a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school which is free from intimidation, threat or harassment. Good conduct of all transported students while waiting for the school bus and while traveling to and from school is essential for a safe and enjoyable ride for all students.

The school district has established student behavior guidelines which apply to all transported students while on the school bus and while in school bus loading or unloading areas. Each individual student, as well as his/her parents, or guardians, is responsible for the behavior of the student while on the school bus and in school bus loading or unloading areas.

Transportation service is a privilege that is granted to the student contingent upon proper behavior according to district behavioral guidelines. A student's eligibility to ride the school bus may be suspended or revoked for a violation of school bus safety or conduct policies, or for violation of any other law or policy governing student conduct on a school bus.

Revocation of a student's bus riding privileges is not considered an exclusion, expulsion or suspension from school.

Parents of transported students will be held responsible for their children until such times as the student boards the school bus in the morning and after the child leaves the bus at the end of the school day. Parents also share responsibility with the child for his/her conduct while on the school bus and while in school bus loading or unloading areas.

Being suspended from bus privileges means the student is off the route bus and the shuttle bus. Students who are involved in serious or repeated incidents of unacceptable student conduct on the school bus will have their riding privileges suspended or revoked. The parent/guardian of a student suspended from transportation is responsible for ensuring that the student travels safely to and from school. The district will not provide alternative transportation to a student whose transportation privileges have been suspended or revoked. In addition, unacceptable conduct on the school bus or at the school bus stop may result in suspension or expulsion from school. Decisions regarding special education students will take into account related disabilities and individual education requirements pertain to transportation.

Permission for a suspended student to ride the bus for field trips and activities will be at the discretion of the building principal and the transportation director. Due to the fact that we cannot predict all possible violations, any violation not addressed will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The age of the student will always be taken into consideration.

BUS RULES

Bus rules are established for the purpose of ensuring each student's safety while waiting, boarding, riding and exiting the school bus. Any type of conduct that causes distraction to the driver is a potential safety hazard. A bus driver is responsible for the safety of the bus and its passengers at all times and therefore students are expected to obey the driver. Failure to follow the direction given by the bus driver may result in disciplinary action that may include suspension from bus riding privileges. Students are expected to obey the following rules:

1. As the bus approaches, stay 10 feet from the roadway and stand in an orderly manner until the bus comes to a complete stop.
2. Sit facing the front of the bus, with feet on the floor and keep all body parts inside the bus.
3. Stay in your seat until the bus has come to a complete stop.
4. Do not throw any objects in or around the bus.
5. Loud talking, shouting, or screaming is not allowed.
6. Do not touch the emergency door handle.
7. Carry-on baggage must be held or placed under the seat.
8. Keep the bus clean and refrain from damaging the bus. Put trash in containers provided on the bus.
9. If a student must cross the highway, they shall be required to pass in front of the bus, look in both directions and proceed only after receiving a signal from the bus driver (Code of Iowa)
10. Keep the bus aisle clear at all times.
11. No gum chewing, eating or drinking on the bus.

CONSEQUENCES FOR CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

1. First time—driver gives written warning. The Principal or Transportation Director will speak with the student and riding privileges will be revoked for one week.
2. Second time—driver gives written warning, student, parent, bus driver and Transportation Director hold conference. Riding privileges will be revoked for two weeks.
3. Third time—riding privileges will be revoked for three weeks upon administration decision.
4. Fourth time—riding privileges can be revoked for up to nine weeks upon Administration decision.

SEVERE CONSEQUENCE CLAUSE

One of the following consequences will occur immediately if a serious violation occurs.

1. Student removed from the bus immediately.
2. Riding privilege suspended for up to 9 weeks upon Administration decision.

All Mid-Prairie school buses are equipped with video cameras and microphones. See board policy 711.2 for specific details of this policy.

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