

BUS CONDUCT

Background

Once students board a school bus they become the responsibility of the District. Therefore, the District regards a school bus as an extension of the classroom, and all students are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the same standards of behaviour that have been established for the classroom.

Students must follow the established school and District codes of conduct while being transported under the jurisdiction of the District.

Procedures

1. Students shall abide by the Appendix – Code of Conduct for Bus Students. A copy of the code will be given annually to all students who travel on school buses. A copy of the code shall be available on each bus.
2. At the beginning of each school year and as required during the year, bus drivers will advise students of the Appendix - Code of Conduct for Bus Students and the consequences for failing to follow the code.
3. Schools will review the information provided in the code of conduct for bus students with students each year.
4. Generally, intervention for bus misconduct will be determined by the school Principal and may be of escalating severity up to and including permanent suspension from riding the bus for continued inappropriate conduct.
5. Normally, the driver will notify the school and the SD57 Transportation Administrator of the misconduct at the time of the incident when the student disembarks from the bus.
6. Students who have been notified of a suspension from the bus are not to be refused entry to or expelled from a bus until the day following notice of suspension has been received by them. However, in extreme circumstances, where student safety or damage to the bus is involved, the bus driver has ultimate responsibility for the safety of the students and has the authority to refuse any student access to the bus.
7. When a conduct notice has been issued, the school Principal or the SD57 Transportation Administrator will contact the parents outlining the bus code of conduct and the determined intervention.

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8. Indefinite suspensions may be issued without following the regular conduct process as a result of a serious infraction such as:
 - 8.1 Striking another student or the driver;
 - 8.2 Flagrant disregard for the bus driver;
 - 8.3 Fighting;
 - 8.4 Willful damage to the bus;
 - 8.5 Possession of drugs, alcohol or weapons on the bus;
 - 8.6 Any behaviour that places the safety of the driver and other passengers at risk.
9. Indefinite suspensions require an interview with the parent(s), student, the school Principal or the SD57 Transportation Administrator and a representative of the bus contractor as requested by the SD57 Transportation Administrator to review the incident and to determine the duration of the suspension, before a student can be reinstated on the bus.
10. An appeal of a suspension of more than two days is to be made within five days of the suspension notice date to the SD57 Transportation Administrator, who, in consultation with the contractor and the school Principal, shall decide on the merits of the case.
11. In the event that students cause the bus to become unsafe due to their behavior, or if there is a suspicion or confirmation of drugs or alcohol consumption, the bus may be returned to the school of origin and students may be dropped off in the care of a school Principal or Vice Principal.
12. Behaviour strategies that may be used by a driver for misconduct on the bus include:
 - 12.1 Discussion with a school Principal or Vice Principal;
 - 12.2 Seat assignments;
 - 12.3 Oral warnings to the student;
 - 12.4 Contractor and District reserving the right to reassign a student to an alternate bus.
13. The objective of the District is to provide safe transportation for students. Every opportunity is taken to educate students of the Code of Conduct for Bus Students and the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

Reference: *School Act* Sections 6, 7, 11, 17, 20, 22, 65, 79, 85
School Regulation 265/89
Policy 17 School District Transportation Services