

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Conduct and Discipline of Students

- A. A board approved set of bus conduct rules will be made available to parents, students, bus drivers and the building principals within the first two weeks of each school year.
 - 1. These rules will be published in the newspaper and/or an announcement will be sent home with bused students. The rules will be distributed by principals to students with the instruction that they be taken home and reviewed with parents.
 - 2. The rules will include a statement that violations may result in the loss of the bus riding privilege.
- B. At the beginning of the school year, the building principal will provide all bus students with an in-service program regarding bus rules, safety and proper student behavior.

Misconduct

- A. It is expected that each driver will maintain order on the bus and require student adherence to the rules. When a student violates a rule, an incident report form is to be completed by the driver and forwarded to the building principal on the day of the infraction or the morning of the next school day.
- B. The principal will notify the student's parents, of the infraction. The infraction may result in the student's loss of bus privilege in accordance with the suspension policy of the district. The principal will maintain communications with the driver and the transportation officer.

Driver Disciplinary Actions

- A. When student behavior is unacceptable, drivers are to report such action to the building principal on the student incident report form.
- B. If immediate disciplinary action is required, the driver may return the student(s) to the sending school immediately, but the driver is not to force any student off the bus at any other point prior to reaching the usual departure point.

Conduct Expectations and Rules

A. Expectations

1. The same courteous conduct that is expected of students in the classroom is also expected while on the bus.
2. Students are expected to be at their designated pick-up points on time.
3. The driver is responsible for positive student management and the discipline of students while they are riding the bus.
4. Drivers are expected to communicate and work cooperatively with principals in the resolution of discipline and other problems.
- d. The parents are expected to instill the importance of safe bus behavior upon their children and to cooperate with the driver and principal concerning any difficulties that may arise.

B. Rules

1. Students will obey instructions given by the driver, assist the driver in keeping the inside of the bus clean and enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner.
2. Un-acceptable behavior includes moving about in the bus while it is in motion, throwing objects within or out of the bus, pushing, yelling, stomping of feet or abusive language. Opening or closing of windows without driver's permission and extending head or arms out the window will not be allowed.
3. Non-acceptable carry-on items include food or drink other than lunches, glass objects, animals, sharp instruments and large musical instruments which present a potential safety hazard.

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Reviewed 05/24/88
Reviewed 01/11/94
Reviewed 11/10/98
Revised 04/25/16

Legal Reference:

SDCL 13-32-1 - Disciplinary authority over students on school premises.

SDCL 13-32-2 - Physical force authorized when reasonable and necessary – Attendance at school functions away from premises – Authority of bus drivers.