



3548 A

Student Code of Transportation Safety

Regulation 3548 A

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Review Dates:

I. PURPOSE

Bus transportation to and from school is a privilege, not a right. All students may be transported by bus at some time during a school year because bus transportation is also used for field trips. It is essential that all students transported by Minneapolis Public Schools be aware of the rules for safe traveling by bus for their own safety and the safety of others. The purpose of this regulation is to establish the Student Code of Transportation Safety, which contains the minimum requirements of all authorized riders of District provided school buses.

II. STUDENT CODE OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.

A. Students shall be aware of and remain out of the danger zones outside the bus.

1. The danger zone is a ten (10) foot area around the bus in all directions.
2. The danger zone exists whether or not the bus is parked, is stopped while the engine is running or while it is being driven.
3. The only time a student is in the danger zone is when she or he is passing through the zone to get on or off the bus.

B. Students shall follow the reasonable directions and instructions of the bus driver.

1. The bus driver is the responsible adult on the bus and is in charge of the bus operation and the behavior on the bus.
2. Bus drivers deserve the respect of students.
3. Students are also due respect from bus drivers and other authorized passengers on the bus. Bus drivers shall take care to preserve the privacy of data related to bus ridership, bus stops assigned, and disciplinary actions taken or any other educational data of any student. Bus drivers shall not intentionally humiliate or harm any student or authorized rider.
4. If students have problems with their bus driver, they should report these to their teachers, parents and other responsible adults for help in solving the problem. Students should not attempt to solve problems while the bus is in motion.
5. Bus drivers must give permission before bus windows may be opened by students. Generally bus windows are only opened half-way to keep riders safe.

C. Students are responsible for managing their own bodies while on the bus.

1. Once students have boarded the bus they will take a seat and remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop at their final destination.
2. Arms, legs, heads and other body parts need to remain inside the bus windows.
3. Students shall not throw things out of the bus windows.
4. Students shall use indoor voice volumes while on the bus to make sure that the bus driver can hear all traffic and emergency signals, and that other bus riders can hear instructions from the bus driver.



5. Students shall keep the aisles clear of their arms, legs and other body parts, as well as their property, for safe use of the aisle by others.
 6. Students do not interfere with the bodies of other students by pushing, poking, tripping, or other unsafe behaviors.
- D. Students demonstrate respect for themselves and others.
1. Students do not fight, swear or yell at each other or the bus drive while on the bus.
 2. Students do not threaten or intimidate others on the bus. Bullying behavior is not tolerated on the bus or at the bus stop.
 3. Students do not yell at people outside of the bus.
 4. Students keep their property close to them and do not use their property to obstruct seats or the aisles.
 5. Students respect the property of other riders.
 6. Students respect the bus and bus equipment.
 - a) Students do not eat or drink on the bus.
 - b) Students do not mark up, or damage the bus, bus seats, or windows.
 - c) Students do not litter, or leave trash on the bus.
 7. Students are ready at their bus stop at the scheduled time to keep the bus on schedule and not cause other riders to have to wait extra time and that so all can arrive at school or home on time.
- E. Students demonstrate safe behaviors while waiting at their bus stops or when boarding or exiting the bus at school or other destinations.
1. Students follow school rules and district policies while waiting at their bus stop.
 2. Students do not approach the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the bus driver has opened the bus door.
 3. Students do not leave their bus seats until the bus has come to a complete stop and the bus driver has opened the bus door.
 4. When more than one student is present, the students make a single line to board or exit a bus.
 5. Students allow each other enough time and space to safely board and exit the bus.
 6. Students use bus handrails when boarding or exiting.
 7. Students do not go into streets at the bus stop to look for the bus or to play.
 8. When students must cross a street to board or exit a bus, they follow the instructions of the bus driver or their teacher to do so.
- F. Students support safety on the bus.
1. Dangerous things are not brought on the bus. This includes, but is not limited to, weapons, alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.
 2. Pets and animals are not brought on the bus.
 3. Students model safe behaviors for each other.
 4. Students practice evacuation of the bus with teachers or the bus driver.
 5. Students follow evacuation procedures safely.



III. RESULTS OF FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE CODE

- A. Students are subject to the District Disciplinary Policy and all district policies while at the bus stop, on a school bus, or while waiting to board a bus.
- B. Depending on the severity of the infraction of the code the following results may be imposed:
1. Reminders and redirection by the bus driver;
 2. Re-teaching expectations and skills;
 3. Behavior referral to school administration;
 4. Suspension of bus riding privileges for a period determined by the school administrator with input from the School Transportation Safety Director, or designees;
 5. Restitution for replacement or repair of property or bus;
 6. Suspension from school and bus;
 7. Loss of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year;
 8. Recommendation of transfer to a different school;
 9. Recommendation for Expulsion from school;
 10. Referral to School Resource Officer;
 11. Referral to local law enforcement agency (for crimes).
- C. Suspension or loss of bus riding privileges does not create an excused absence from school for the student. Parents are responsible to transport or to make sure that students are in attendance when under suspension or if privileges are lost.
- D. Parents shall be notified of any suspension or loss of bus privileges, or other disciplinary actions taken.
- E. Parents are responsible for damages to property caused by the behavior of their children.
- F. Non-public school and charter school students who are transported by District transportation services shall have consequences determined at the school of their enrollment, however, the District reserves the right to unilaterally suspend or terminate the bus privileges of any non-public or charter school student for cause.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. §120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)

Minn. Stat. §§121A.40 – 121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)

Minn. Stat. § 121A.59 (Bus Transportation a Privilege Not a Right)

Minn. Stat. §§123B.84 - 123B.87 (Equal Treatment in Transporting Students)



Minn. Stat. §123B.88 (Independent School Districts: Transportation)

Minn. Stat. §123B.90 (School Bus Safety Training)

Minn. Stat. §123B.91 (School District Bus Safety Responsibilities)

Minn. Stat. §123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)

Cross References:

MPS Policy 1040 (Student and Staff Data Protection)

MPS Policy 3545 (Transportation)

MPS Policy 3546 (Bus Equipment and Drivers)

MPS Policy 4002 (Harassment and Violence Prohibition)

MPS Policy 4025 (Drug-Free and Weapons-Free Schools and Workplace)

MPS Policy 4026 (Transportation Employees: Drug and Alcohol Testing)

MPS Policy 5200 (Behavior Standards and Code of Conduct)

MPS Policy 5201 (Hazing and Bullying Prohibition)

MPS Policy 5210 (Student Personal Electronic Devices)

MPS Policy 5220 (Tobacco Use, Student)

MPS Policy 5631 (Drug-Free Schools, Chemical Health, Chemical Use and Abuse)

MPS Policy 5680 (Search of Students, Lockers, Desks, Motor Vehicles)

MPS Policy 6131 (School Calendar)

MPS Policy 6132 (School Day)

MPS Policy 6230 (Field Trips)

MPS Policy 6450 (Pupil Fees)

MPS Policy 6680 (Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness)

MPS Policy 6681 (Accident Prevention and Reporting)

MPS Policy 6682 (Emergency Health Care)

MPS Policy 6692 (Student Medication)