

Unified School District #309

Nickerson-South Hutchinson

Student/Parent Bus Policy Handbook



2015-16

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INTRODUCTION: SCHOOL BUS CONDUCT & SAFETY RULES

The safety of all students is our top priority. That is why the Bus Conduct and Safety Rules are designed to promote safety on the school bus at all times. Therefore, each student is expected to cooperate fully by always obeying the rules.

The authority of the bus driver, who is in charge of the bus and all passengers while they are riding, loading and or unloading from the bus, will be recognized and supported by all for everyone's safety.

The bus driver must be heard and be able to hear traffic sounds such as sirens. Students shall be courteous to the driver, follow the rules and obey the driver.

School bus transportation is a privilege and is not guaranteed for you by law. Transportation is available; however, it can be taken away if students choose to disobey or violate any of the safety and conduct rules.

If transportation privileges are denied, the parents or guardians are responsible for getting their children to and from school

No passenger on the bus has the right to prevent the other passengers from a safe bus ride.

The purpose behind school districts developing such policies is that the school bus is an extension of the classroom, and the district is responsible for establishing policies to deal with reporting and follow up on behavioral and disciplinary issues.

**KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KANSAS SCHOOL BUS STATUTE**

Kansas Statutes 72-8302 (c) and (d) provides authority for the local governing body to establish rules and regulations pertaining to passenger conduct when being transported in a school owned or contracted vehicle for daily or activity transportation.

(c) The board of education of every school district is authorized to adopt rules and regulations to govern the conduct, control and discipline of all pupils while being transported in school buses. The board may suspend or revoke the transportation privilege or entitlement of any pupil who violates any rules and regulations adopted by the board under authority of this subsection.

(d) The board of education of every school district may suspend or revoke the transportation privilege or entitlement of any pupil who is detained at school at the conclusion of the school day for violation of any rules and regulations governing pupil conduct or for disobedience of an order of a teacher or other school authority. Suspension or revocation of the transportation privilege or entitlement of any pupil specified in this subsection shall be limited to the school day or days on which the pupil is detained at school. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to any pupil who has been determined to be an exceptional child, except gifted children, under the provisions of the special education for exceptional children act.

USD 309 BUS TRANSPORTATION RULES

To Promote a Safe, Orderly, Efficient and Enjoyable bus ride to and from school, these bus rules must be followed:

At the Bus Stop

- Be on time - board and leave the bus only at your regularly assigned stop unless you have received special permission in advance.
- Stay out of the street and away from the road.
- Help protect surrounding property while waiting for the bus.
- Wait until the bus has come to a full stop and the driver has opened the door before approaching the vehicle. Take your turn and do not push or shove when entering or leaving the bus.

On The Bus

- Always obey the driver promptly and respectfully.
- Be seated promptly and stay in your assigned seat while on the bus.
- Keep all books and materials on your lap or contained in a back pack or sack.
- Be courteous and use no profane language.
- Speak in low voices.
- Never push, shove, scuffle or horseplay, that is always unacceptable and a serious safety hazard.
- Keep your head, hair, hands, feet and all belongings inside the bus and to yourself.
- Never smoke or light matches, it is a serious safety hazard.
- Never fight - it is unacceptable and a serious safety hazard.

Leaving the Bus

- Take your turn and do not push or shove while leaving the bus.
- Make sure coat strings and book bag handles are kept short so they don't get caught on the bus.
- Once off - clear the area immediately. If crossing the street, wait for the signal from the bus driver before crossing in front of the bus.
- Walk quickly across and stay 10 feet from the front of the bus. Always cross the street in front of the bus – never behind the vehicle.

Student Rider Expectations

- Students must know and understand their responsibilities.
- He/she must accept the responsibility of his own behavior.
- He/she must be ready to board the bus 10 minutes prior to the bus arrival.
- He/she must be at their boarding location on time. Students are not to wait in their house for the bus.
- He/she must respond appropriately to the direction of the driver.
- Students shall be on time as the bus will not wait for students not at the loading area or making an attempt to reach the bus.
- Students shall stay out of the driver's seat and shall not tamper with equipment.
- Students must not open or close the bus windows without the permission of the driver and shall not extend any part of their body out of the bus window.
 - Students are not to carry on unnecessary conversation with the driver while the bus is in motion.
 - Tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs shall not be consumed or carried on the bus.
- No pop, food, candy, gum or sunflower seeds shall be consumed on buses without bus driver approval.
- Items, which can create dangerous situations, must not be carried on the bus without prior approval by school authorities.
- Animals cannot be transported on the bus without prior approval by school authorities.
- Weapons, knives, or any item being used as a weapon or destructive device, or any facsimile of a weapon will not be allowed on the bus.
- Firearms, explosives and dangerous objects will not be allowed on the bus.
- Situations regarding tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, or firearms will be reported to appropriate officials.
- Students walking to the stop must walk on the side of the road to their left facing traffic.
- Students shall not stand in the traveled portion of a roadway while waiting for a bus.
- Students loading or unloading from the bus and needing to cross the approaching traffic lane must wait to cross until signaled by the driver.
- Students will also check traffic, cross approximately 10 feet in front of the bus - not behind the bus.

- Students will not be permitted to leave the bus on the way to and from school.
- Students will need a pass signed by the principal to ride a different bus other than the one assigned when requested by parents or guardians.
- Students on the bus will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will in no way endanger the safe operation of the bus at all times.
- Students shall keep absolutely quiet while the bus is approaching and crossing a railroad.

Disciplinary Procedures

- Students are subject to all school rules and regulations while at the bus stop, going to and from the bus stop, or riding the bus. Items that are prohibited at school, are not allowed on the bus.
- The purpose behind school districts developing such policies is that the school bus is an extension of the classroom, and the district is responsible for establishing policies to deal with reporting and follow up on behavioral and disciplinary issues.
- Students who misbehave on the bus shall be reported and/or taken to their building principal.
- Disciplinary tickets will be issued by the bus driver in cases of inappropriate behavior on the bus.
- The discipline ticket will be submitted to the principal, who will administer discipline according to the district policy.
- Students must have a parent's signature on the ticket before being re-admitted back on the bus.
- The driver may recommend suspending a student from riding the bus for one day for serious or persistent misbehavior to the building principal. The suspension shall be the next school day following the violation.

- Transportation privileges may also be revoked by the building principal and/or the transportation director.
- Some situations may warrant extended periods of suspension. Rider privileges may be denied for remainder of the grading period, semester or possibly the end of the year.
- Video cameras may be used in buses to help with disciplinary issues.
- All riders can and should behave appropriately while on the bus. Any variations of this premise are dealt with as a safety infraction, which is not negotiable.
- No passenger will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex or physical ability.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Please note if school is dismissed early due to bad weather, we need to know the location to take your students. Please list any additional stop needed for this, however, it will have to be on the same bus route as we cannot change the student's bus. This needs to be on file with the child's bus form at their school.
- If a district vehicle is involved in an accident that requires an official police report, the district will personally contact the parents of each student riding in the district vehicle as soon as possible.
- If you have any questions, please contact:

Roy Lewis
Transportation Director
(620) 422-3191 or
Toll Free 866-422-3191