**PROCEDURE: BUS RULES AND DISCIPLINE**

**CODE: C20AP**

**Statement of Purpose:**

It is the expectation of Maple Run Unified School District (MRUSD) to provide a safe environment on school buses transporting students to and from school and school activities.

**District Guidelines:**

1. Students who are residents of the school District may be transported to school either through school owned buses or through a contracted bus service.
2. Students attending schools outside of the District will not to be transported under any circumstances. The sending school is responsible for providing such transportation.
3. Established routes and schedules are intended to provide transportation sufficient to enable the student to attend school. The bus routes shall include only recognized town and/or state roads.
4. Transportation of students, who do not come within the regular routes and schedules, will be considered on an individual basis (on application of the parent to the principal or superintendent).
5. There may be instances in which the parent believes conditions exist which involve the student's health and safety. The parents may discuss these situations with the principal or superintendent who will investigate and may present the problem to the school board for decision.
6. Students traveling to school on a bus are expected to return by the same bus unless other arrangements are made.
7. Requests to ride on a bus other than the student’s assigned bus will be considered based on the capacity of the bus and prior arrangements are expected to be made with the transportation coordinator. Students must also provide a permission note from a parent/guardian when they are to take a bus other than their own or are to use some other means of transportation (including walking).
8. Once aboard the bus, students must remain on the bus until their scheduled destination is reached. This means they may not disembark for an unscheduled stop and return to the bus.
9. Students may not bring anything on the bus that cannot be held on their laps. No animals will be transported on the bus.
10. Cameras are installed on most of our buses to assist in monitoring student behavior.
11. Students may be subject to additional requirements of a contracted bus service.

**Expectations for Students**

The importance of proper conduct involving the bus cannot be overemphasized. This includes waiting for the bus, boarding it, riding on it, and leaving it. Any behavior which distracts the driver endangers everyone. In the interest of safety, all students should understand (and parents are urged to impress upon their children) the need for following these rules:
1. Follow the direction of the driver and all times.
2. Sit facing forward in your seat.
3. Talk quietly.
4. Keep to yourself.
5. No eating or drinking is permitted.

**Student Discipline/Misbehavior:**

Providing transportation to students for school and school functions is a privilege and as such, students are expected to conduct themselves according to district expectations.

1. Maintaining student control on the bus is a primary responsibility of the driver. Unmanageable behavior will be reported to the school Principal. Parents will be notified at the discretion of the Principal.
2. In the event a student is denied transportation privileges for a period of time, parents will be given notice by letter as well as by direct verbal contact when possible.
3. Should a student’s behavior represent a serious or immediate threat to the health and safety of fellow passengers and/or the driver, the driver will notify the school Administration and/or return to the school. In these situations, a delay in transportation may occur.
4. The following bus consequences have been established:
   a. **1st violation:** A warning from the Principal/designee is given to the student and a call/letter home is made.
   b. **2nd violation:** The driver reports the incident(s) to the Principal/designee and a 1 to 5-day bus suspension is given.
   c. **3rd violation:** The driver reports the incident(s) to the Principal/designee and a 3 to 10-day bus suspension is given.
   d. **4th violation:** The driver reports the incident(s) to the Principal/designee and a 5 to 20-day bus suspension is given.
   e. **5th violation:** The driver reports the incident(s) to the Principal/designee and a bus suspension of 20 days to the remainder of the year is given at the discretion of the Principal/designee.
   f. **Serious infractions** can result in immediate suspension from the bus at the discretion of the Principal/designee.

**Note:** Vermont education law states in part, "A student may be excluded from bus transportation for disciplinary reasons by the Principal, and his/her parent shall provide his/her transportation to and from school during the period of such exclusion."

**Legal Reference(s):**

16 V.S.A. §1221 (Transportation of students)
16 V.S.A. §1161a (Discipline)
16 V.S.A. §1162 (Suspension and expulsion)