

## SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM DISCIPLINE REGULATIONS

Discipline is even more important on the school bus than in the classroom. In spite of the necessity for negative discipline, its function is limited. Negative discipline, a system of "Thou Shalt Nots," has definite uses in maintaining present efficiency, but its permanent value is confined to its utility in establishing certain individual constraints. If the negative approach is all that the driver employs, it will soon be found that the driver has lost the control needed to be a safe driver.

A properly conducted personal conference by the driver is the first step in analyzing the student's problem and helping the student to see the danger involved if the actions continue. Even where the misbehavior of a group is involved, the most effective procedure involves a personal conference with each member of the group. For first offenders, especially, many future problems can be headed off.

### Function of Discipline

The function of discipline is:

1. To require conduct from the students that will secure conditions most favorable for a pleasant atmosphere;
2. To maintain this conduct in such a way that it continually enriches the individual and promotes social ideals, good attitudes, and habits which lend toward a safe trip; and
3. To preserve those conditions necessary to the welfare of all the passengers on the bus. This embraces many things and the driver must be alert to see that this is carried out.

### Guiding Principles of Discipline

1. The driver should always strive to enforce control of the passengers by indirect means.
2. If direct control is necessary, punishments should be avoided whenever results can be realized by other means.
3. The amount of direct discipline decreases as the effectiveness of indirect control increases.
4. The driver should never administer corporal punishment. The driver may employ such means as special assignment of seats and should administer corrective measures, other than corporal punishment, as far as possible. Every case sent to the principal tends to weaken the driver. The best drivers send very few cases to the principal or teacher for discipline.
5. The driver should frankly discuss disciplinary problems with the transportation director, principal, or coworkers and ask for advice.
6. Before dealing with discipline, be sure to bring the bus to a stop.
7. In dealing with cases of discipline, the driver must act with decision and promptness but be sure that individual offenders have been isolated. The inside rear view mirror will be an aid in identifying the offenders as well as the exact nature of the offense.
8. The entire bus load should not be punished for the offense of one or two.
9. Misconduct is contagious and drivers must not tolerate it, for the problem extends itself if left alone.

### Sources of Student Disciplinary Problems

Restlessness  
Rowdiness  
Mischievousness  
Dishonesty

**SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM, DISCIPLINE, REGULATIONS (Cont.)**

Protrusion of head, hands, or other parts of the body out of windows  
Moving from seat while the bus is in motion  
Wanting to get off the bus before the destination is reached  
Abusing the inside of the bus  
Scuffling  
Boisterousness  
Harassment of the driver or another student

**Types of Punishment**

1. Desirable:
  - A. Enforce control by reproof of a sensible nature.
  - B. Dismissal or suspension from the bus will begin with the transportation director or superintendent being notified of the student's actions. Final decision for suspension will rest with the transportation director or the superintendent.
  - C. Remove privileges, such as requiring the student to sit on the front seat.
  - D. Report to parents and/or school authorities.
  - E. Require restitution.
2. Questionable or Undesirable
  - A. Sarcasm and contempt;
  - B. Any type, while angry;
  - C. The use of threats;
  - D. Forced apology;
  - E. Personal humiliation;
  - F. Saturation (forced repetition of the offense);
  - G. Nagging or tongue lashing.

**Attributes for Good School Bus Order**

1. A proper driver attitude toward the job and toward the children;
2. A courteous disposition;
3. A proper control of temper;
4. An understanding of the significance of the job;
5. Keeping clean and tidy when on the job.