

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 19

School Bus Safety and Riding Regulations

The riding of tax-supported school busses in RSU 19 is a privilege granted by the Board of Directors and conditional on each rider's individual behavior and observance of the Safety and Riding Regulations. Drivers are authorized to enforce these practices and regulations and to make decisions necessary in the interest of the safe conveyance of school children. Failure to comply with the practices and regulations or wishes of the bus driver may result in suspension or expulsion of riding privileges as well as school attendance.

Bus Safety Practices

- Be respectful to the bus driver and do not cause distractions.
- Report all emergencies to the driver immediately.
- Sit properly and remain in the seat while the bus is in motion.
- Do not run, push or shove while entering or exiting the bus, and wait for the driver to fully open the door.
- Do not litter or clutter the bus aisle.
- Do not place any part of your body outside the bus at any time.
- When crossing in front of the bus, walk at least 12 feet in front of the bus and make sure to look both ways when crossing the other lane of the road.
- While waiting for the bus, stay out of the roadway and do not engage in play or activity that can be dangerous or distracting to you, others who are waiting, or to motorists, or the oncoming bus.
- Do not stop to pick up dropped objects near the bus. Report them to the driver or another adult.
- In order to change destinations or bus routes, signed permission from a parent or guardian must be presented.
- The following articles are not allowed on the daily routes: sleds, skis, ski poles, hockey sticks, animals of any type, large school projects, large musical instruments, spiked athletic footwear, or any other items that may interfere with the safety of the passengers or the operation of the school bus.

Bus Riding Regulations

- Students will sit properly in the seats and remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Students will be respectful of the bus driver and refrain from the use of loud, boisterous, vulgar or inappropriate language or gestures at all times.
- Students will walk in an orderly fashion without pushing or shoving others while entering, exiting or moving on the bus.
- Students will not place any part of their body outside the bus or display any inappropriate gestures to anyone outside the bus.
- There will be no use or possession of alcohol, tobacco or drugs on the school bus.
- There will be no weapons or flame producing objects on the school bus.
- There will be no fighting while riding on the school bus.
- Individual drivers will determine if and when food and/or drink may be consumed on the bus, however at no time will glass containers or snacks, such as lollipops which may cause choking, be allowed.
- Any vandalism, destruction or defacing of the school bus or school property will not be tolerated and restitution will be sought. In some cases legal prosecution may result.
- No throwing or shooting of objects at anytime or distraction of the bus driver.

Note: Violation of any of the above regulations may result in immediate suspension and eventually expulsion of riding privileges and school attendance.

Consequences: Drivers of school busses are authorized to enforce the safety and riding regulations and to make decisions as necessary in the interest of the safe conveyance of school children. All children should report any infractions of the safe practices and regulations to the bus driver. If children fail to comply with the regulations or wishes of the bus driver, suspension or expulsion from riding privileges may result. Furthermore, because the school bus is an extension of the school and classroom, violation of some regulations may result in suspension or expulsion from school as well.

Bus Conduct Report forms, example on following page, will be used by all drivers to keep students, parents, the school and the transportation supervisor informed about noncompliance of regulations. These will be given directly to the student and **must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the driver before the student is allowed to continue riding.**

Consequences depend upon the severity and nature of the incident. Infractions may result in immediate suspension. After a student has accumulated **three** Bus Conduct Reports, suspension and/or expulsion may be the consequence as well. The first suspension will be three days in length, and the second suspension will be five. If violation of the regulations continues, riding privileges will be suspended until the driver, transportation supervisor, parents, student and building principal meet to determine whether the student may or may not continue to ride district busses.

It must be noted that any student suspended or expelled from riding on one bus will not be allowed to ride on any other bus to include field trips and extra curricular activities.