

## 443.2R STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES: PROCEDURES



School officials may discipline students for failure to abide by established bus rider rules to the extent authorized by law. Bus riding privileges may be suspended for a student without the student being suspended from school. Before such suspension can take place, the student must be afforded due process as provided by state law.

School officials should make sure that any suspension of bus riding privileges of a student with a disability is done consistent with the student's individualized education program (IEP) and laws governing the provision of special education and related services to students with disabilities.

The following procedures apply to all students, both public and private, who ride any school bus connected to the Whitnall School District including buses for extra-curricular activities. The procedures are designed to provide a fair and responsible system to deal effectively with unacceptable behavior on the bus.

The following list of bus riding rules is not all inclusive. Students must abide by the following rules of conduct:

1. Be on time at the designated stop for the bus (about five minutes before the bus is due).
2. Be careful while waiting at bus stops and stand at a safe distance away from the roadway so as not to create a hazard for passing motorists.
3. Make certain one's conduct is not a problem for him/herself, other students or property owners near the bus stop.
4. Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before trying to enter the bus. Go promptly to a seat. A school administrator, his/her designee, or a bus driver has the authority to assign students to designated seats.
5. Sit quietly in the same seat during the entire trip; loud talking or laughing distracts the driver's attention.
6. Be considerate of others when opening windows. Open them only with the permission of the bus driver.
7. Always remain seated, facing forward; standing, facing backward or changing seats could be dangerous.
8. Be sure to keep hands, arms and head inside the bus, and never throw anything out of the window.
9. Refrain from using vulgar or obscene language and/or gestures on the bus, at passing cars or pedestrians.
10. Keep the bus neat, clean and orderly at all times.
11. In leaving the bus, remain seated until it comes to a complete stop. (Do not rush from the back to be the first one off. Allow the bus to empty with the students seated in front leaving first.) When crossing the road, do so at least 10 feet in front of the bus and make sure the highway is clear. Flasher signals on the bus are operated for the protection of the students.

12. Never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment. Any damage as the result of vandalism will be paid by the student and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian.
13. Remember that bus riding is a privilege. Students who refuse to cooperate and abide by bus rider rules may be suspended from bus riding and/or school.
14. Be courteous to all others.
15. Do not use, possess or distribute tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances on the bus. School Board policy shall be enforced.

Drivers may refuse to transport students only if a report of the circumstances has been made to the principal or designee and the principal or designee has removed the student from the bus. No student shall be let off the school bus except at school or at his/her stop. The driver may not take students off his/her bus unless authorized by the building principal or designee or local law enforcement agency.

Discipline including suspension and/or expulsion may be instituted for the following situations that occur in connection with bus ridership:

1. A single incident of a very serious nature which threatens the health, safety, and welfare of other individuals on the bus.
2. Continual non-compliance with school rules.
3. Knowingly conveying any threat or false information concerning an attempt or alleged attempt to destroy school property by means of explosives.
4. Conduct while under school authority which endangers the property, health or safety of others at school or under school authority.
5. Conduct while under school authority which endangers the property, health or safety of a District employee or Board Member at school or under school authority.

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