

School Bus Discipline Policy

The following rules and regulations are enforced to provide safe transportation to and from school for students. Students should be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled time. **It is a privilege, not a right, to ride school buses.**

I. BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY

Students who have the opportunity to ride NECP buses may do so as long as they display behavior that is reasonable and safe. Choosing to follow unacceptable behavior will result in loss of bus service. The bus driver is responsible for the safety and discipline of students on the bus. The transportation director is available to give assistance to the driver and will determine consequences of misbehavior and the reinstatement of bus service for the offending students should a suspension become necessary. A suspension applies to all buses unless otherwise designated by school officials. The responsibility for student supervision by the school shall begin when the student boards the bus in the morning and is retained until the child leaves the bus at the end of the day.

II. TRANSPORTING OF SCHOOL RELATED/NONRELATED ITEMS

No materials, including: guns, loaded or unloaded; gasoline cans, empty or full; animals, or any other item deemed dangerous or of an objectionable nature are transported on the school bus when children are being transported.

Band instruments that will be allowed on the bus are those that are small enough to be held in the student's

lap. Instruments may not be in the aisle or take the space of a student. Baseball and softball bats or any other unacceptable recreational equipment will not be allowed on regular buses. Tape recorders/ CD players used for instructional purposes should be appropriately packaged. Damage to personal items is not covered by the school's insurance coverage.

III. **BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES AND CONSEQUENCES**

A. **Level I Offenses**--including, but not limited to

- Eating or drinking (sodas, fruit drinks, etc) on bus. Bottled water will be allowed during hot months.
- Excessive noise
- Excessive horseplay
- Spitting
- Leaving seat/standing while bus is in motion
- Squirt guns/liquid containers in any form, except those intended for lunch box use
- Radios, tape recorders, and electronic games are not allowed on the bus (permitted with principal approval on long trips)
- Riding unassigned bus without permission or using unassigned bus stop.
- Other Level I offenses as reported by the driver or transportation director

- Hanging out of window
- Throwing/shooting of any object inside or out of bus
- Holding onto/or attempting to hold onto any portion of the exterior of the bus
- Unauthorized (a) entering or leaving bus, (b) use of emergency door, (c) tampering with bus equipment
- Other Level I offenses as reported by driver or transportation director

B. Level II Offenses—including, but not limited to

- Physical aggression against any person
- Use of tobacco or any controlled substance
- Vandalism to bus (restitution will be made)
- Lighting of matches, fireworks or any flammable object or substance
- Profanity, verbal abuse, harassment, obscene gestures, or possession of unacceptable material
- Other Level II offenses as reported by driver or transportation director

Listed below are consequences for behavior problems encountered on the bus. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, the schedule listed below. Severe and habitual problems may also carry further disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

C. Consequences

Class I: 1st Offense—Warning

2nd Offense—1-3 days bus suspension and parent contact

3rd Offense—3-5 days bus suspension and parent contact

4th Offense—5-10 days bus suspension and parent conference

5th Offense—Parent conference and permanently removed from bus for remainder of school year

Class II: 1st Offense—1-5 days out-of-school suspension and parent contact

2nd Offense—5-10 out of school suspension and parent conference

3rd Offense—Parent conference, 5-10 days out-of-school suspension, and permanently removed from bus for remainder of school year

PARENTS ARE ALSO REMINDED IT IS A CHARGEABLE OFFENSE TO BOARD A SCHOOL BUS. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH A DRIVER OR STUDENTS, PLEASE CONTACT TOM WOOTEN, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION.

