

## STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES/BUS REGULATIONS

The School Board and staff members are very concerned about safety as we transport pupils. Cooperation from both parents and students is essential to keep the buses safe for all concerned.

Students using district transportation are under the jurisdiction of the school from the time they board the bus until they are deposited at school or at the stop nearest their home.

The school bus is an extension of the school, and all Rochester School Board Policies, school rules, and regulations which pertain to student conduct in the schools are applicable to student conduct on a school bus. As at school, students are expected to behave in a safe, respectful and responsible manner on the school bus.

The school bus driver is in complete charge of the school bus and the students must follow the directions given by the driver.

### Bus Regulations

1. No student shall be put off the school bus while traveling to and from school. Parents shall be notified and the daily trip completed before the student can be removed from the transportation services.
2. **Students may ride only on the bus to which they have been assigned.** (Exception will be made only with a note from a Principal.)
3. Only authorized riders will be permitted on the buses.
4. Video cameras are used on school buses, in accordance with School Board Policy EEACB-A, Use of Surveillance Cameras.
5. Students must be at their bus stop **before** the bus arrives. The driver will not wait at the bus stop for students who are not at the bus stop.
6. Students must always cross the street in **front** of the bus at a distance sufficient to allow the driver to see them. After getting off the bus, students (if they must cross the roadway), shall go to the front of the bus and wait until the bus driver directs them to cross the roadway.
7. Students walking on the roadway to a bus stop should always walk on the left of the roadway on the shoulder of the road facing traffic and shall not run alongside the bus when it is moving. When crossing the roadway to board a bus, students shall walk, not run.
8. Where a bus travels both ways on any given road, pick-ups will be made on both sides of the road. If the bus travels only one way on a road, students will wait on their own side of the road until the bus comes to a complete stop. At that time, the students will cross in front of the bus while the red flashing lights are blinking.
9. Once a student has boarded the bus, he/she may not get off except at his/her destination. (Exception will be made only with a note from a parent or Principal.)
10. The driver is authorized to assign seats to any student at any time.
11. **The law allows, and students are expected to sit, three passengers per seat.**
12. Students **must** promptly take their seats and stay in their seats until the students have reached their designated stops, **and** the bus has come to a complete stop. Students are not permitted to change seats when the bus is in motion.

13. Anything that would create a safety hazard for the passengers, or the vehicle, will not be permitted.
14. Students are **not** permitted to smoke on any school bus at any time. This includes all charter trips.
15. Students are **not** permitted to use any profane language or obscene gestures. Excessive noise, fighting, wrestling, or acts of physical aggression will not be tolerated.
16. Students **must** keep head, hands, feet, etc. inside the school bus at all times.
17. Students are **not** permitted to eat food or drink beverages on the bus.
18. Students are **not** permitted to mark up or deface the bus in any way.
19. Students and their parents will be held responsible for any and all damage to the bus.
20. Students shall not shout or wave to pedestrians or occupants of other vehicles, nor throw objects out or within the bus.
21. Students shall keep the aisles clear which includes not placing lunch boxes or other objects in the aisle of the bus.
22. There shall be no throwing of snowballs or other objects at school buses at any time.

**Failure to abide by these rules will mean:**

- A. A referral notice will be issued by the school bus driver to the:
  - a. The school bus company;
  - b. The School Administrator;
  - c. The Assistant Superintendent of Schools.
- B. The School Administrator shall conference with the student and notify the student's parents and assign consequences, if appropriate. Depending on the nature of the violation, consequences may include, but not limited to: conference with a school administrator, detention, restitution, suspension from the bus, suspension from school, and/or referral to the Assistant Superintendent.

The school administration will make the decision to suspend a student from riding on the school bus (N. H. - R.S.A. 189:9-a) based upon the recommendations received from the school bus driver, school bus company, and/or others close to the situation. The suspension will be for a period of time appropriate for the rule violation with consideration being given to the circumstances of each individual student. Suspensions may be for one day, two days, or up to twenty days. Suspensions beyond twenty days must be approved by School Board action. Disciplinary action for behavior on the school bus can lead to out of school suspension or other disciplinary action.

**C. For severe rule violations:**

- The Assistant Superintendent may immediately suspend a student from riding on the school bus.
- Referral to the School Board Discipline Committee:  
May be made for recommendations to the full School Board for extended suspension, or expulsion from riding on the school bus.

- Referral to the School Board:  
Referrals to the full School Board shall come through the School Board Discipline Committee and may be made for action on recommendations of extended suspension, or expulsion from riding on the school bus.

**Adopted:** April 8, 1993

**Reviewed/Amended:** August 9, 2007; February 12, 2009; December 9, 2010; September 12, 2013; August 8, 2019; September 10, 2020

Formally EEACC-R