

Student Transportation Services and Bus Regulations

GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF BUS STOPS

The Transportation Director will determine the pick-up points and drop-off points for each child being transported and will use the following guidelines:

1. It is considered reasonable for students in grades 3-12 to walk up to one-half mile to the bus, except that it shall be reduced to one-quarter (1/4) miles on November 15 and remain in effect until April 1 of each year.
2. Students in pre-kindergarten shall be picked up at their door or as close as possible, and students in grades K-2 shall be expected to walk up to one-quarter (1/4) mile to meet the bus, except that it shall be reduced to one-eighth (1/8) mile on November 15 and remain in effect until April 1 of each year.
3. It is considered reasonable for in-town students in grades K-12 to walk up to five (5) blocks to a bus stop. Pre-kindergarten students shall be picked up at their door or as close as possible. Carman Terrace, Forrest Knolls and Meadowland students shall be picked up at their entrance.
4. Only regularly enrolled students in the public and parochial schools including the Area Learning Center and the Early Childhood and Family Education Program may ride on the public school buses. Drivers are not permitted to pick up adults or others who do not attend the Crookston public and parochial schools.
5. Any pupil not regularly riding on a bus will secure written approval from their Building Principal or the Superintendent before riding one of the scheduled bus routes. The written permission shall be presented to the driver before entering the bus.

CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR

Students should be on time at their designated school bus stop and should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to enter.

A. Safe Driving Regulations:

While on the bus, students should –

1. Never put arms, hands or any other part of the body out of the doors or windows.
2. Remember that loud talking and laughing diverts the driver's attention and makes safe driving difficult. Horseplay, rowdyism or wrestling is not permitted around or on the school bus.
3. Not leave their seats while the bus is in motion.

4. Be on time at the designated school bus stop to keep the bus on schedule.
5. Stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus.
6. Be careful in approaching the place where the bus stops. Do not move toward the bus until the bus has been brought to a complete stop.
7. Always be seated when the bus is moving.
8. Assist in keeping the bus safe and sanitary.
9. Respect and use interior parts of the bus and equipment in the same manner that they treat fine furniture in their home.
10. Never leave anything on the bus such as lunch boxes, paper sacks, books or clothing.
11. Keep all personal possessions out of the aisles.
12. Not throw anything out of the doors or windows.
13. Aid in looking after and helping small children.
14. Practice courtesy to fellow pupils and offer assistance to the bus driver.
15. Remain quiet when the bus is approaching railroad crossings.
16. Obey the bus driver instantly in case of an emergency and remain on the bus unless otherwise instructed.
17. Demonstrate the traits of good bus citizenship every day. Bus drivers are responsible for maintaining good discipline on their bus.
18. Inappropriate language directed at the driver or other passengers will not be tolerated.

B. Should discipline problems arise that the driver cannot handle, the following procedures will be used:

1st Offense:

The bus driver informs the Transportation Services Director of the discipline problem and completes a complaint form. The Transportation Services Director contacts the student's building principal. The principal calls the parent(s) and sends a letter with a copy of the complaint form and talks to the student.

2nd Offense:

The bus driver informs the Transportation Services Director of the discipline problem and completes a complaint form. The Transportation Services Director forwards copies of the complaint form to the student's building principal. The principal calls the parent(s) and arranges a conference with the parent(s), student, Transportation Services Director and the building principal.

The student is suspended from school bus riding privileges for 1 – 5 days. The bus suspension decision is made by the building principal and the Transportation Services Director.

A certified letter will be sent by the building principal to the parent(s) and student within forty-eight (48) hours of the conference detailing the reasons(s) for the suspension, when bus riding privileges will be reinstated and will include a copy of the Minnesota Fair Pupil Dismissal Act.

3rd Offense:

The bus driver informs the Transportation Services Director of the discipline problem and completes a complaint form. The Transportation Services Director forwards copies of the complaint form to the student's building principal. The principal calls the parent(s) and arranges a conference with the parent(s), student, Transportation Services Director and the building principal.

The student is suspended from bus riding privileges for the remainder of the time designated by the building principal and the Transportation Services Director.

A certified letter will be sent by the building principal to the parent(s) and student within forty-eight (48) hours of the conference detailing the reasons(s) for the suspension, when bus riding privileges will be reinstated and will include a copy of the Minnesota Fair Pupil Dismissal Act.

Alternate transportation for the student will be decided on an individual basis by the building principal and the Transportation Services Director.

Based on the severity of the incident, the student may be placed at any offense level listed above.

PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

A. Parent and Guardian Notification

The school district school bus and bus stop rules will be provided to each family. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.

B. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities for Transportation Safety

Parents/Guardians are responsible to:

1. Become familiar with school district rules, policies, regulations, and the principles of school bus safety, and thoroughly review them with their children;
2. Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions;
3. Communicate safety concerns to their school administrators;
4. Monitor bus stops, if possible;
5. Have their children to the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives;
6. Have their children properly dressed for the weather; and
7. Have a plan in case the bus is late.

OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES

A. General Operating Rules

Students may be released from the school bus at only two points, the assigned bus stop or at school, except in an emergency or as otherwise authorized by the Transportation Director. The parent or guardian shall designate one location to be their student's a.m. bus stop and one location to their student's p.m. bus stop. The locations must be in the attendance area of

Independent School District #593 and may be a daycare facility, respite care facility, residence of a relative, or residence of a person chosen by the parent. Changes to the designated stop location will require ten business days to complete.