

Policy-8121

Non-Instructional Operations

Student School Bus Conduct

Proper conduct by students contributes greatly to the safety of this district's transportation program. Therefore, the following rules of student conduct must be observed:

1. The bus driver is in full charge of all persons riding on the bus and has the same status and authority as a teacher insofar as discipline is concerned. Students shall obey the bus driver's directions promptly and courteously.
2. Students shall talk quietly and avoid loud or distracting noises on the bus. Students shall avoid unnecessary conversations with the driver while the bus is moving. Absolute silence is required when the driver stops the bus at a railroad crossing.
3. Students must keep hands, arms, and heads inside the bus at all times. No materials are to be thrown inside the bus, from the bus, or into the bus. *Windows may not be opened more than half way.* Eating or drinking is not allowed on the bus except when unusual circumstances exist and prior approval is given by school transportation personnel.
4. Students shall observe safe pedestrian practices while walking to and from the bus. Students must be on time to board the bus. It is recommended students arrive at the bus stop not less than five (5) minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus. Students shall wait in an orderly manner and shall respect private and public property while waiting at the bus stop.
5. After the bus has come to a complete stop, students shall enter the bus, go directly to an available or assigned seat, and remain seated while on board.
6. If it is necessary for students to cross the road after leaving the bus, the student(s) must wait twelve (12) feet in front of the bus until the "all clear" signal is given by the driver, then cross carefully.
7. Students shall board and leave the bus at their established stop, except when they have a request signed by their parent or guardian to do otherwise. Students shall ride their assigned bus unless reassigned by the respective school principal/designee.

8. Students shall not tamper with emergency doors or equipment.
9. No smoking, tobacco or vaping will be permitted on any bus transporting students to sponsoring functions. School district policies pertaining to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, weapons, harassment, bullying, hazing and sexual harassment are in effect at the bus stop and on the bus.
10. Breakable containers, skateboards, hazardous materials, cigarette lighters, matches, shop projects, or animals other than service animals, are not permitted on any school bus. No items are to be stored in the aisle. Any large items carried on the bus must be held on the students' laps. Items such as large musical instruments, shop projects, pets, etc., will not be transported with students on the bus.

Prior to the first bus referral, a verbal notice will be given to the student notifying him/her of minor or continuing conduct that is disruptive but does not require discipline of a bus referral. At this time the parent/guardian will be contacted by phone.

Should it be necessary for a bus driver to issue a referral to a student due to misbehavior on the bus, the bus driver will fill out a Bus Referral Report.

First referral requiring discipline shall have the following minimum consequences:

- A. Written notice sent to parent by the bus service, along with phone conference.

Second referral requiring discipline shall have the following minimum consequences:

- A. Student shall be denied bus privileges for one school day.
- B. Parents/guardians must be notified by the bus service 24 hours in advance of the suspension.
- C. A copy of Bus Conduct Report will be given to appropriate principal.

Third referral requiring discipline shall have the following minimum consequences:

- A. Students shall be denied bus privileges for three school days.
- B. Parents/guardians must be notified by the bus service 24 hours in advance of the suspension.
- C. A copy of Bus Conduct Report will be given to appropriate principal.

Fourth referral requiring discipline shall have the following minimum consequences:

- A. Students shall be denied bus privileges for five school days.
- B. Parents/guardians must be notified by the bus service 24 hours in advance of the suspension.
- C. A copy of Bus Conduct Report will be given to appropriate principal.

Additional or severe offenses may result in:

- A. Additional days of suspension
- B. Permanent loss of transportation to and from school
- C. Safe and immediate removal from bus

NOTE: The effective dates of denied bus privileges will be the days immediately following parent/guardian notification or on the third day, if notification is made by mail.

NOTE: If the bus driver believes that a severe infraction of the rules has occurred, the driver may move directly to a more severe sanction.

Suspension of bus transportation privileges for students with disabilities as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, will follow federal guidelines and the provisions of this policy.

Policy History:

Adopted: June 2019

Legal Reference:

IDAPA 08.02.02.180 (Written Transportation Policies)
Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations
Idaho State Department of Education, July 2018.