

JICC - STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Category: Recommended

Related Policies: JICDD, ECAF

Students using school buses and other District transportation are under the jurisdiction of the School from the time they board the bus until they exit the bus. Additionally, Board policy JICDD applies to “out-of-school” student conduct, including, but not limited to, conduct at or near school bus stops.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop rules and regulations for conduct on buses reference below.—These shall be printed in the Parent-Student Handbook, made available on the District and/or school website, and provided in other languages as needed.

Failure to abide by the School Bus Conduct Rules Continued, disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver may result in a student to be denied or suspended from the privilege of transportation in accordance with the RSA 189:9-a, and applicable District rules and procedures. Additionally, conduct on District transportation is subject to additional interventions, supports or consequences as provided in the Student Code of Conduct.

If a student is to lose the privilege of riding the bus (“transportation suspension”), advance warning will be given, except for misconduct that threatens the health, safety or welfare of other students, staff or any other person. Parents/guardians of students who have had bus privileges suspended have a right to appeal the suspension within 10 calendar days to the person who issued the original suspension. Transportation suspensions exceeding 20 days must be approved by the Board. Transportation suspensions shall not begin until the next school day following the day written notification of suspension is sent to the pupil’s parent/guardian. The Superintendent shall include such appeal and review procedures in the School Bus Conduct Rules referenced below in sections B. and C. Transportation suspensions may extend to all District transportation.

Students transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of the District and under control of the bus driver. The driver of the bus, along with the bus monitor, if applicable, is responsible for the orderly conduct of the students transported. Each driver and monitor has the support of the Board in maintaining good conduct on the bus.

In order to ensure the safety of all students riding District provided school buses, appropriate behavior is required for all students. Transportation to and from school is an extension of the classroom and should be considered part of the school day. The issue of safety requires students to be on their best behavior while on school buses or vehicles.

The Student Code of Conduct policy JIC applies to students at all times when being transported on school buses or other District provided transportation to and from school or school activities. Thus, while students may lose the privilege to ride the bus or other District transportation due to students’ failure to maintain the behavioral expectations, students may also be subject to interventions and/or disciplinary consequences for the same behaviors according to the Student Code of Conduct.

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A. Behavioral Expectations & Rules for School Buses and Other District Provided Transportation.

1. Students should arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. The bus cannot wait for those who are not on time. If a student misses the bus, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to transport the student to school.
2. Students shall wait in a safe place, clear of traffic until the bus stops, the door is open, red flashing lights are on, and the driver has directed students to get on the bus.
3. Students shall wait in an orderly line and avoid horseplay.
4. Students may cross the road or street only in front of the bus only after the bus has come to a complete stop and upon direction of the driver (10-foot minimum crossing distance).
5. Students shall go directly to an available or assigned seat when entering the bus and move in toward the window.
6. Students shall remain seated until they have reached their designated stop and the bus has come to a complete stop. Aisles and exits must be kept clear at all times and emergency doors will be used for emergencies only.
7. Students shall observe normal classroom conduct and obey the driver promptly and respectfully. The driver is in complete charge of the bus and his/her decisions and requests must be followed.
8. Students shall not engage in verbal abuse and/or use abusive language to others.
9. Students may carry only objects that can be held safely on his/her own lap. Musical instruments, athletic equipment bags and the like must be placed in the area designated by the driver.
10. Students shall refrain from throwing or passing objects on, from or into buses.
11. Students shall refrain from eating and drinking on the bus unless permitted by school staff .
12. Students shall respect the rights and safety of others.
13. Students may ride only the bus that they have been assigned, and students may only board or exit at their assigned stops . (Exceptions will only be made with a note from a Principal or Principal's designee.)
14. Students are prohibited from extending their heads, arms or objects out of the bus windows, and are not allowed to open windows without permission of the driver.
15. Only authorized riders are permitted on the bus.
16. When necessary, students will be expected to sit three passengers.
17. Students shall not use profane language or obscene gestures, and shall make any excessive noises while on the bus.
18. Students are strictly prohibited from possessing or using tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substance. In addition to any interventions or consequences pursuant to these rules

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or the Student Code of Conduct. The police will be notified whenever a student is involved with the possession and/or use of alcohol, drugs, or any illegal substances.

19. Fighting, wrestling or acts of physical aggression are strictly prohibited.
20. Students shall not deface or otherwise damage the bus, the driver's or any other students belongings while on the bus. Students/Parents will be held responsible for any and all damages to the bus caused by the student by way of vandalism or other intentional or reckless conduct.
21. Students shall not carry hazardous material, nuisance items or animals onto the bus.
22. Students are prohibited from hitching rides via bumper or other parts of the bus.

B. Response and Consequences for Misconduct on School Buses.

Students not adhering to the above expectations may receive consequences as described below. However, **when a student engages in any conduct that threatens or impacts the health or safety of students, staff or others, the Principal, Transportation Coordinator or Superintendent may impose more significant and immediate consequences including lengthier transportation suspensions.**

The following will generally apply to violations of expectations 2 through 17:

First Referral: will result in a letter of warning with a copy sent to the student's parents/guardians, and a copy kept on file in the School Administrator's Office and the Transportation Coordinator.

Second Referral: will result in one (1) hour after school detention. Parents/guardians must be notified prior to the implementation of the detention. It becomes the parents/guardians' responsibility to transport or arrange other transportation for their children home after a detention.

Third Referral: will result in an immediate five (5) day suspension from District transportation to and from school.

The following will generally apply to violations of expectations 18 through 22:

First Referral: will be an immediate five (5) day suspension from all District transportation.

Second Referral: will be an immediate ten (10) day suspension from all District transportation.

Third Referral: will result in the immediate suspension from all District transportation. "RSA 189:9 – Pupils prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons.

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C. General Provisions Relating to Transportation/Bus Suspensions.

All transportation suspensions are measured by school days, not calendar days. Repeat transportation suspensions or suspensions over five (5) days will apply to all District transportation, including to and from school, as well as any school sponsored activity or program (e.g., field trips, athletic competitions, etc.).

Transportation suspensions shall not begin until the next school day following the day written notification of suspension is sent to the pupil's parent/guardian.

Any suspension to beyond twenty (20) school days must be approved by the school board.

If a student's transportation privileges have been suspended for violations of the behavior rules or other disciplinary reasons, the parent or guardian of that student has the right of appeal within ten (10) days of suspension to the authority who issued the suspension.

The Board should consult with counsel regarding the procedures to apply at any Board review or appeal regarding suspension of an individual's transportation privileges.

Until any appeal is heard, or if the suspension of student's privileges to ride the school bus is upheld, it shall be the parents' or guardians' responsibility to provide transportation to and from school for that student for the period of the suspension.

D. Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses.

Video cameras may be used on school buses to monitor student behavior. Audio recordings in conjunction with video recordings may also be captured on school buses, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 570-A:2. See Board policy ECAF – Audio & Video Surveillance on School Buses.

E. Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities will be disciplined in accordance with federal state law including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as set forth in the procedures developed by the administration.

District Policy History:

First reading: September 14, 2010, June 11, 2024

Second reading/adopted: October 12, 2010, June 25, 2024

Final Adoption: October 12, 2010, June 25, 2024

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NH Statutes	Description
RSA 189:13-b	<u>School Bus Driver & Transportation Monitor Criminal History Records Check</u>
RSA 189:6-a	<u>School Bus Safety</u>
RSA 189:9-a	<u>Pupils Prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons</u>
RSA 376:2, VII	<u>Motor Carriage of Passengers</u>
RSA 570-A:2	<u>Capture of Audio Recordings on School Buses Allowed</u>

Federal Regulations	Description
49 C.F.R. § 40.1-40.13 (2001)	<u>Transportation Workplace Drug Testing Program</u>
49 C.F.R. Part 391 (1995)	<u>Qualifications of Drivers</u>
49 CFR Part 382	<u>Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing</u>

Federal Statutes	Description
20 U.S.C. §1232g	<u>Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)</u>

Legal References Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.