

TRANSPORTATION 3 – STUDENT CONDUCT, DISCIPLINE, & DUE PROCESS

By contractual agreement, the student bus transportation contractor, and Mountain Home School District No. 193 share in the dual responsibility of student discipline when being transported to and from school using the bus system.

DISCIPLINE ON THE SCHOOL BUS - The bus driver is responsible for rider discipline on the school bus as specified by law. The CONTRACTOR shall provide for regular reporting to the DISTRICT of incidents of misconduct on the bus and corrective action taken.

It is recognized that bus drivers play an important role in the educational system because their buses are, in effect, an additional “home room” for the student. It is the first school contact the student enters in the morning and the last one the student leaves at the end of the school day. Bus drivers must remember that, privately as well as publicly, they are representatives of Mountain Home School District No. 193.

School district policy also recognizes that students are responsible for their conduct while riding the bus. The District further recognizes a student's right to a reasonable discipline system, which includes protection of due process. To that end, the following procedures will be included within the current bus transportation discipline plan:

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:

I. BOARDING AND DEPARTING THE BUS:

1. Students approaching bus stops, must wait in a safe place and stay well off the roadway clear of traffic, and away from the bus stop when waiting for the bus, and respect the property at the bus stop.
2. Students must be on time to board the bus. It is recommended students arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus.
3. Students must board and leave the bus at their established stop, except when they have a request signed by their parent or guardian to do otherwise.
4. Students must not try to board the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the door is opened.
5. When assigned to a bus, a student must continue to ride that bus unless reassigned by the respective school building principal. Students must remain at that school to be eligible to ride the bus home.

6. If it is necessary for a student to cross the road after leaving the bus, he or she must wait fifteen (15) feet in front of the bus until the “all clear” signal is given by the driver, then cross carefully. In crossing the road to board the bus, the student must wait until the driver gives the “all clear” signal, and then carefully cross in front of the bus.
7. Students must observe traffic and safety requirements when walking to and from the bus stop.
8. Students must wait in an orderly fashion and avoid “horseplay” and other inappropriate behaviors.

II. STUDENTS BEHAVIOR ON THE BUS:

1. Students must go directly to an available or assigned seat, be seated, and remain seated while on board and until the bus comes to a complete stop for unloading.
2. No items are to be stored in the aisle or exits. Any large items carried on the bus must be held on the students’ laps.
3. Students must keep hands, arms, and heads inside the bus at all times.
4. Students must avoid loud talking, screaming, yelling, or unnecessary confusion. Absolute silence is demanded when the driver stops the bus at a railroad crossing.
5. Students must strive to keep the bus clean and neat. No materials are to be thrown from, on, or in the bus.
6. No eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed on a school bus. Place trash in containers when the bus is stopped for unloading.
7. No smoking, vaping, or tobacco will be permitted on any bus transporting students to and from school and to and from sponsoring functions and activities.
8. Do not open or close overhead vents.
9. Students must be appropriately dressed, in accordance with the school district dress code, at all times.

III. RESPECTING THE RIGHTS AND SAFETY OF OTHERS:

1. No physical contact or public display of affection (PDA) will be permitted on the school bus, no fighting, no hitting, no kissing, no hugging, etc. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.

2. No threatening behavior towards the bus driver, other students on the bus, or even other drivers of vehicles within the vicinity of the bus.
3. No cursing, profane language, racial or sexual slurs, or obscene gestures are acceptable. No spitting on or out of the bus.
4. No flammable items on the bus such as cigarette lighters, weapons, etc.
5. No hazardous materials, weapons, look-alike weapons, or items that could be used as a weapon, nuisance items, or animals on the bus. This includes skateboards and roller blades.
6. No drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products on the bus or at the bus stop.

IV. RESPECT AND OBEY THE BUS DRIVER:

1. Students must obey the bus driver's directions promptly, respectfully, and courteously.
2. A bus driver has the same status and authority as a teacher insofar as discipline is concerned.

V. CONSEQUENCES & DUE PROCESS OF BUS CONDUCT REFERRALS

1. The bus driver will first endeavor to convey to the student the seriousness of the violation of any of the rules of student conduct. The principal or designee will seek to impress upon the student the need for improvement in bus conduct. The principal or designee, or the district supervisor of transportation, will suspend the student's bus transportation privileges as follows:
2. **First Referral** - When a student receives a first referral for an infraction of the rules, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive written and/or verbal notification of the offense. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified that a second referral may result in a five (5) day suspension from the bus.
3. **Second Referral** - When a student receives a second referral for an infraction of the rules, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive a second written and/or verbal notification of the offense. A conference with the student, parent, and school bus contract representative may be required for a second referral as well as up to five (5) days suspension from the bus for the violation. The parents(s)/guardians(s), as well as district officials, will be notified by written and/or verbal notification that a third referral may result in a ten (10) day suspension from the bus.
4. **Third Referral** - When a student receives a third referral for an infraction of the rules, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive written and/or verbal notification of the offense. A conference with the student, parent, and school

contract representative will be required, as well as a suspension of bus riding privileges for up to ten (10) days for the violation. The parent(s)/guardian(s), as well as district officials will be notified that a fourth referral may result in a loss of privileges to ride the bus.

5. **Fourth Violation** - When a student receives a fourth referral for an infraction of the rules, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive a written and/or verbal notification of the offense and consequence. A conference with the student, parent, and school contract representative will be required and the student may lose bus privileges for the remainder of the year. School District officials will receive written and/or verbal notification before and after the conference.
6. **Other Violations** – Immediate five (5) day suspension for fighting or hitting another student(s) on the school bus or at the bus stop due to School District #193 zero tolerance for violence policy.

***NOTE: AN IMMEDIATE UP TO FIVE (5) DAY SUSPENSION FOR FIGHTING OR HITTING OTHER STUDENTS ON THE BUS OR AT THE BUS STOP.**

Any student, who has been suspended, including those on their fourth violation, may be reinstated by the school bus transportation contractor or school district officials upon such reasonable conditions as may be prescribed. These conditions should be clearly communicated to the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) and may include probationary status and/or behavior contracts.

The above discipline plan does not prevent the school district or the student transportation contractor from taking immediate action in the cases, which in their judgment require immediate action for the preservation of order or the protection of students, bus drivers, other individuals, or the schools in general.

Suspension of bus transportation privileges for students with disabilities as defined by Public Law 94-142, and subsequent amendments, and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, will follow federal guidelines and the provisions of this policy.

Any vandalism or destruction of school bus property will result in payment for damages and may result in automatic forfeiture of all school bus privileges for one (1) calendar year (365 days from date of occurrence).

Nothing will prevent the district from denying transportation to any student on any school bus or other transportation equipment operated by or under the authority of the district, upon good cause given in writing to the parent/guardian of such student.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Pupil Transportation, Responsibilities, and Operations Manual,

Idaho State Department of Education, revised 1996.

ADOPTED: (As Procedure – August 21, 1979; Revised: January 27, 2003; Revised: December 18, 2007; Reviewed: October 16, 2012)

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