



**ST. CROIX PREPARATORY ACADEMY
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY
Policy #709**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide safe transportation for students and to educate students on safety issues and the responsibilities of school bus ridership.

II. PLAN FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING

A. School Bus Safety Week

The school district may designate a school bus safety week. The National School Bus Safety Week is the third week in October.

B. Student Training

1. The school district shall provide students enrolled in grades kindergarten (K) through 12 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:

- a. transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
- b. school district policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
- c. appropriate conduct while on the bus;
- d. the danger zones surrounding a school bus;
- e. procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
- f. procedures for safe vehicle lane crossing; and
- g. school bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.

2. All students in grades K through 6 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training by the end of the third week of school. All students in grades 7 through 12 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training or receive bus safety instruction materials by the end of the sixth week of school, if they have not previously received school bus training. Students in grades K through 12 who enroll in a school after the second week of school,

are transported by school bus, and have not received training in their previous school districts shall undergo school bus safety training or receive bus safety instructional materials within 4 weeks of their first day of attendance.

3. The school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must conduct a school bus evacuation drill at least once during the school year.

4. The school district will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.

5. The school district may provide kindergarten students with school bus safety training before the first day of school.

6. The school district may provide student safety education for bicycling and pedestrian safety for students in grades K through 5.

III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR

A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school district's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses.

B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school district. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules. Students are expected to follow school bus safety rules posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the school district's discipline procedures will be followed. In most circumstances, consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges.

2. Rules at the Bus Stop may include but not be limited to the following:

a. Get to your bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.

b. Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.

c. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.

d. Use appropriate language.

e. Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.

f. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.

- g. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- h. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- i. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- j. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

3. Rules on the Bus may include but not be limited to the following:

- a. Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
- b. Sit in your seat facing forward.
- c. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- d. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- e. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- f. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- g. Do not throw any object.
- h. No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- i. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- j. Do not damage the school bus.

4. Consequences

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes. Generally, consequences are progressive and may include warnings, detentions, temporary suspension of bus privileges, and permanent suspension of bus privileges. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extracurricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school also may result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

(a.) Records

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that are reasonably believed to cause an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property shall be provided by the school district to local law enforcement and the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.

(b.) Vandalism/Bus Damage

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within 2 weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.

(c.) Criminal Conduct

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, drug possession, or vandalism), the appropriate school district personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

IV. 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 5 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.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)

Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)

20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)

42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Student Sex Nondiscrimination)

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