

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Section J: Students	File: JICB
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School bus safety is a primary concern of the Newburyport Public Schools, which reserves the right to take whatever action is necessary to maintain a high level of safety. The courts have held that the right of a student to transportation is a qualified right, dependent on appropriate behavior. In those cases where a student seriously or repeatedly misbehaves, the Assistant Principal or Principal will notify the student's parents. Such behavior may result in temporary removal from the bus for that student. If a student's behavior seriously endangers other students and/or the driver, that student is subject to immediate and possibly permanent removal from the bus. Disciplinary action is detailed in each school's Handbook or Student Code of Conduct.

The following conduct is strictly prohibited:

- Smoking, vaping or use of tobacco (also see School Committee Policy *ADC*)
- Lighting of matches or any device
- Extending any body part out of a window
- Standing or moving when bus is moving
- Throwing any object within the bus or out a window
- Interfering with anyone passing to or from a seat
- Eating of any food
- Profanity
- Bullying
- Possession of any illegal or dangerous or drug or weapon
- Talking or shouting in a manner that is disruptive to the bus driver or other students
- Behavior of any kind that is disruptive to the bus driver or to students on the bus
- Any student conduct prohibited in the Student Handbook or Student Code of Conduct.

Failure to comply with the above regulations will result in disciplinary actions as detailed in each school's Student Handbook or Student Code of Conduct and may include temporary or permanent loss of bus privilege, suspension from school, or other disciplinary action as appropriate to the offense.

A student who pays a fee for transportation and whose riding privileges are suspended because of a violation of these rules will not receive a fee refund in whole or in part.

The driver is in complete charge of the bus and the students while in route to and from school. All passengers must follow the instructions issued by the driver for loading, unloading and personal conduct.

Safety Guidelines

For reasons of safety, all bus passengers must comply with the following:

1. Students must ride in the assigned buses, loading and departing at designated stops only.
2. Students are expected to be on time at designated bus stops (at least five (5) minutes before).
3. Students must stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus. Students should conduct themselves in a safe manner while waiting.
4. After the bus arrives at the bus stop, students may not cross the street until signaled to do so by the driver. The driver will not signal students to move from the bus stop until after the red lights are flashing and the driver has verified that the traffic has stopped.
5. Passengers leaving buses must cross in front of the bus under the direction of the driver who is able to see traffic in both directions while passengers cannot. The bus shall not move until all passengers are safely on their side of the street.
6. Bulky objects carried onto the bus are to be stored as directed by the driver.
7. USE OF EMERGENCY DOORS IS PROHIBITED UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.
8. Students will be held liable for any damage resulting from defacing or causing destruction of school buses.

Responsibility of Bus Driver

The primary responsibility of a bus driver is to conduct the bus in a safe manner consistent with all laws, regulations, and stipulations of the contract between the Newburyport Public Schools and the bus company. Additionally:

1. A bus driver shall report any misconduct that would impair safe operation of the bus by filling out a “Bus Conduct Report”.
2. A bus driver shall not leave the bus with students aboard, unattended.
3. A bus driver shall check the bus at the end of each bus run to make sure that no students remain on the bus.

References:

Source: Newburyport School Committee

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	6/5/2017
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