

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

In order to ensure a safe environment for all students being transported, the following Bus Discipline Code will apply to all students riding buses operated by the School Department.

BUS DISCIPLINE CODE

Behavior on a school bus is a safety issue. The job of the driver is one that requires constant attention and concentration. Students, therefore, are expected to adhere to the bus rules, which will include the following:

1. Students are to follow the driver's instructions immediately, whatever the situation or circumstance.
2. Students are to seat themselves in accordance with directions from the driver regarding seat assignments.
3. Students are to remain in their seats at all times, except when the bus has come to a complete stop at their bus stop approved by a parent and a school administrator.
4. Students are to speak in normal tones, and use of foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.
5. Students are to keep their hands, heads, and all objects inside the bus.
6. Students will not fight on the bus.
7. Students will not damage the bus or the belongings of another student.
8. Students will sit facing the front of the bus.
9. Students will not eat or drink on the bus.
10. Students are not to smoke on the bus.
11. Students will not throw items out of the bus windows, around the inside of the bus, or on the floor.

If a student fails to follow the bus rules, the driver will submit a written report describing the student's infraction to a school administrator. Building administrators will maintain a file of misbehavior reports and a summary of consequences. Any consequences assigned

will be handled by a building administrator, as will movement from one level to another in the discipline code.

If a student fails to follow the bus rules, the student may be denied the privilege of riding the school bus. This would occur only after the student and the parent are notified of a reason for the suspension of bus privilege, and the action to be taken. Students and parents have the right to request a meeting with the building administrator to discuss the violation and/or the consequences.

Consequences for bus misconduct are as follows:

- Level 1: Administrative warning to the student and contact with the parent(s) and possible administrative detention or suspension, based on the severity of the first offense.
- Level 2: Suspension of bus riding privileges between one (1) and five (5) days with advance notice to parent(s) and possible suspension from school.
- Level 3: Suspension of bus riding privileges between six (6) and twenty (20) days with advance notice to parent(s); during the suspension period a conference will be held with the student, parent(s), and school administrator, with possible suspension from school.
- Level 4: Loss of all bus riding privileges for the balance of the school year and possible suspension from school.

If a student exhibits severe misconduct (including but not limited to bodily harm to self or others), the school administration may impose a more severe consequence. For example, bodily harm to other students, although it may be a first offense, could result in loss of bus riding privileges for the full year. In addition, carrying a weapon and/or physically attacking the bus driver are grounds for school expulsion under Massachusetts General Law. The School Department has the obligation to report violations of law (weapons, alcohol, drugs, assault) to the Police Department for follow-up by that department.

Consequences of bus misconduct involving suspension of riding privileges will be followed-up with written parental contact. A copy of this notification will be forwarded to the bus company as well as to the Superintendent of Schools.

It is noted that a suspension in bus riding privileges includes only the loss of bus transportation to and from school. Field trip and athletic transportation is handled through the school discipline code. Transportation to and from the collaborative vocational program is handled through the school discipline code.

1st Reading 11/15/07

2nd Reading 12/13/07

Adopted _____