

## **709 Student Transportation Safety - MSBA Mandated**

### **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 riders.

### **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 grade 6 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:

- i. Transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
- ii. School district policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
- iii. Appropriate conduct while on the bus;
- iv. The danger zones surrounding a school bus;
- v. Procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
- vi. Procedures for safe vehicle lane crossing; and
- vii. 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. Students in grades K through 6 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 four weeks of their first day of attendance.

3. The school district must provide students enrolled in grades K through 3 school bus safety training twice 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. A description of school funds expended for school bus safety activities from student transportation reserved revenue is kept in the office of the Director and is available for review. As required by law, these expenditures will be annually reported to the Department of Public Safety.

### **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 students on school buses.

B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school district under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

1. Bus safety rules for riding and waiting (students must follow these rules at all times):

- i. Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
- ii. Sit in your seat facing forward.
- iii. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- iv. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- v. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself and out of aisles.
- vi. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
- vii. Do not throw any objects.
- viii. No eating, drinking or use of tobacco or drugs.
- ix. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- x. Do not damage the school bus, school bus property, or others' property on the bus.

C. Consequences Student(s) will be given a warning by the bus driver if they are not following the rules listed above. If the bus driver has to talk to the student(s) again, there will be a written bus report.

1. 1st report - Warning
2. 2nd report - Three day suspension from the bus, contact parent/guardian
3. 3rd report - Five day suspension from the bus, contact parent/guardian
4. 4th report – Ten day suspension from the bus, meeting to be held with the parent/guardian before reinstatement of bus privileges.

## **IV. Parent and Guardian Involvement**

### **A. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities for Transportation Safety**

1. Become familiar with school rules and policies, regulations and principles of school bus safety.
2. Assist students in understanding safety rules and encourage them to abide by them.
3. Recognize their responsibilities for the actions of their students.
4. Support safe riding practices and reasonable discipline efforts
5. When appropriate, assist students in safely crossing local streets before boarding and after leaving the bus.
6. Support procedures for emergency evacuation and procedures in emergencies as set up by the school.
7. Respect the rights and privileges of others.
8. Communicate safety concerns to school administrators.
9. Monitor bus stops, if possible.
10. Support all efforts to improve school bus safety.

### **B. Parent and Guardian Notification**

A copy of the school bus/bus stop rules will be made available in the Student and Parent Handbook. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their students.