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(X) Local

(X) Notice

Student Conduct on School Buses

A. Student Conduct on School Buses:

A school bus driver or bus aide has the same authority and responsibilities on a bus as a teacher does in the classroom. Riding the school bus is an extension of the school day, and all Hudson City School District students who ride buses, in any capacity, are expected to abide by the same conduct and disciplinary standards that apply in a classroom and anywhere on school grounds. Due to the hazards created by misbehavior on school buses, students who are disorderly or insubordinate shall be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension of riding privileges.

1. As in the classroom, behavior management on buses should be pro-active to the best of the transportation staff's ability, based on the environment on any given day and dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner.
2. In general, it is expected that the transportation staff will be able to handle behavior issues utilizing regular communication with the student(s) or other appropriate measures including: assigning seats for both disciplinary and pro-active purposes.
3. The driver does not have the authority, except in an emergency situation, to refuse to pick up a student. Likewise they cannot order a student off the bus while on route to the student's assigned drop off point, unless such action has been approved by the Director of Transportation or an Administrator.
4. Students not responsive to disciplinary procedures taken by transportation staff on the bus will be reported to the Director of Transportation or the building Administrator, either verbally or on a bus referral form, depending on the infraction. In some instances, the Director of Transportation may handle disciplinary situations, such as cases involving a single student incident where no injuries are involved.

B. Disciplinary Procedures for Students Transported by Bus

In the event that a student's conduct violates the Hudson City School District Transportation Rules & Regulations and/or the Code of Conduct, the driver/ aide will, if possible, take steps to stop the misbehavior immediately and deter its reoccurrence. Such action may include discussing the behavior with the student, assigning a different or permanent seat, or writing a bus referral. If the transportation staff is unable to satisfactorily resolve the problem or the misconduct is egregious, it should be immediately brought to the attention of the Transportation Director and the student's Building Administrator in writing; either by email or a paper referral.

Disciplinary consequences for misconduct are determined by the Building Administrator and the Transportation Director. Consequences are based on the nature of the infraction and / or the number of repeated behaviors the student has incurred. Disciplinary action will be taken by the Building Administrator, Director of Student Services or Superintendent, as a result of the appropriate due process determination. Disciplinary actions include but are not limited to a(n): Verbal Warning, Bus Referral, In-School Suspension, Suspension of Transportation Privileges and Out of School Suspension.

B. Disciplinary Procedures for Students Transported by Bus- continued

1. Should it be determined by a building Administrator in conjunction with the Director of Transportation that a student's transportation privileges be suspended for a determined period of time, the building Administrator or their designee will notify the parent of this action verbally prior to the start of the suspension with written correspondence to the parent/guardian to follow.
2. Suspension from transportation for a classified student with an I.E.P. will be handled by the building Administrator on a case by case basis. If the Administrator suspects that the behaviors are a result of the student's disability, the case should be referred to the Director of Student Services for review.
3. In the event the Director of Transportation requests that an Administrator suspend a student's transportation privileges for a determined period of time and the Administrator does not concur, the Director of Transportation shall have the option of making his/her recommendation of action to the Superintendent. In this case, the Superintendent will make the determination of appropriate action.
4. Transportation privileges will be restored to the student after the determined time period of the suspension has transpired, unless it is determined by the Administrator that a meeting with the student's parent/guardian take place prior to the restoration of transportation privileges.

Adoption date: March 13, 2017

School Bus Transportation Rules and Regulations

All Hudson City School District students who utilize transportation provided by the District have the following responsibilities while being transported both to and from their residence or sitter location, to their educational facility or any other District sanctioned school-day or extra-curricular activity. The following rules were created for and pertain to transportation, in addition to the governance of the Hudson City School District Code of Conduct.

1. Follow all directions from driver and/or aide in a timely fashion - including sitting in an assigned seat upon request.
2. Exhibit conduct that respects the rights and safety of adults, fellow students and yourself.
3. Use suitable language at a reasonable volume and refrain from the use of profanity or inappropriate conversation.
4. Enter and exit the bus in an orderly manner at your assigned stop.
5. Take your seat immediately upon boarding the bus and remain seated at all times while the vehicle is in motion.
6. Do not engage in horseplay, fighting, kicking, biting, hitting – keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
7. Keep all parts of your body inside the vehicle at all times.
8. Do not eat or drink in the vehicle – do not share with, trade or give food or drinks to any other student(s) on the bus. *
9. Keep hands, legs and feet out of the aisle.
10. Do not bring any weapons or illegal items, including: cigarettes, tobacco, incendiary devices, drugs, alcohol or hazardous materials on the vehicle at any time.
11. Refrain from throwing objects on the vehicle or passing objects from or into another vehicle.
12. Do not leave personal items or trash on the bus. Do not tamper with, deface, vandalize or destroy vehicle contents, body or equipment.
13. Refrain from using any products on the bus that are in spray, aerosol, lotion or liquid form. Additionally, refrain from using anything that releases a scent, fumes, vapor or particles into the air.

* The one exception to this rule is in the case of transportation to and from a sporting event or extended field trip. Coaches / teachers may choose to stop for food and allow students to eat in the vehicle. In this case, it is the coach or teacher's responsibility to be fully informed and prepared to handle any food related allergic reactions, intercede in the event of a choking related incident and to remove all food items from the vehicle upon returning to the school campus.

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