

Responsibility of the Student

Procedure 211

Revised: 9/24/2024

Statement

Riding the school bus is a privilege requiring a certain level of safety and decorum. Severe or repeated misconduct by a student can result in a temporary or permanent loss of bus riding privileges. As per Transportation Policy section 7.0 –*Responsibility of the Student*, every student is responsible to the principal for their conduct while travelling on a school bus. Authority is delegated to the bus driver who will report misconduct to the school, and the principal of the school is responsible for addressing all discipline issues with students and/or parents/guardians. Students may be reported or returned to the school mid-run due to misconduct.

Procedure

[The provincial Code of Conduct](#) sets clear standards for behaviour that apply to students whether they are on school property or school buses that could have an impact on school climate. Behaviour affecting the school climate, the health and safety of the driver/monitor's workplace environment, student success/wellbeing, and/or the safe transportation of all riders, will be communicated between bus drivers/monitors and school administration using the School Bus Communication Form or Safe Schools Incident Report as per *AP 212 Student Incident Reporting*.

In situations which directly threaten or harm the physical safety of the driver/monitor/passengers, the principal is authorized to suspend riding privileges immediately upon the end of the run. School administration shall notify the parents of this suspension. The suspension may remain in effect until a satisfactory meeting with resolution is held.

When any reported incident/misconduct goes unaddressed by the school and is brought to the attention of Tri-Board, Tri-Board will follow up and facilitate meetings between the Operator and School Administration as needed until a resolution is reached.

Bus Rider Safety Rules

These rules, in addition to the rules set out in the Code of Conduct for the school, must be adhered to by all students while riding the school bus or at the bus stop:

- Arrive at your stop at least five (5) minutes prior to pick-up time. The bus cannot wait for you. Dress for the weather and wait a few steps safely back from the road, but where you are still visible to the driver.
- Do not damage, disrupt, or deface private or public property while at the stop.
- Be kind, courteous, and respectful to the driver, monitor, and all passengers.
- Board the bus calmly, single file, using the handrail.
- Go directly to your seat and stay seated until it is time to get off the bus. Only rise from your seat when the bus has stopped moving.
- Listen to and follow the driver's instructions.

- Avoid loud and boisterous behaviour that may distract the driver.
- Do not damage or deface the bus.
- Do not carry weapons or objects which may be perceived as dangerous or objectionable.
- Backpacks and personal items should be held on your lap, not in the aisles or step wells.
- Do not open or close windows unless authorized by the driver.
- Students must keep their whole body, including head and limbs, inside the bus.
- Consumption of food or drink is not permitted on the bus at any time.
- Smoking/vaping is not permitted on the bus or at the bus stop at any time.
- Exit the bus using the front door. If you need to cross in front of the bus, do so 3 meters from the nose of the bus and only after the driver has signaled that it is safe.

Bus Rider Ferry Safety Rules

These rules, in addition to the rules set out above, must be adhered to by all students while riding a school bus that travels by ferry and at the dock:

- Even though the bus may be stationary for an extended period, it is considered actively transporting students and therefore, students must remain on the bus. Students are not permitted to exit the bus to visit friends/family, use the washroom, or purchase food/drinks.
- Once a student boards the bus in the morning, they will only be allowed off the bus at the school they attend or transfer site.
- Students transferring from one bus to another must go directly to the bus once released by the driver. They are not permitted to purchase food/drinks, use the washroom, or visit friends.
- In the afternoon, students will only be allowed off the bus at their designated stop or if a parent approaches the bus asking the driver to release the student into their care. In this event, the student(s) will not be allowed back on the bus.

Use of Electronic Devices

Tri-Board acknowledges that regulated use of some personal electronic devices on the school bus may be permitted by the school board. The use of personal electronic devices can interfere in the day-to-day and emergency operations of the school bus. Inappropriate behavior relating to electronic devices which infringes on the privacy of riders or causes a distraction to the driver will be reported by the driver to school administration.

Unauthorized Passengers

Authorized students may only ride the bus(es) they are assigned to and use their assigned stops. Unauthorized students are not permitted on the school bus.