



BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District No. 57
2100 Ferry Avenue
Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R5
(250) 561-6800

POLICY

5131.1

BUS CONDUCT

APPROVED: 1978.06.20

REVISED: 1993.06.01

1999.01.26

2001.06.05

2002.11.26

2003.05.27

2016.05.31

2020.09.29

POLICY

While being transported for extra-curricular travel, co-curricular travel, curricular travel or travel to and from school, students shall conform to the school district's Code of Conduct for Bus Students.

Responsibility Centre: Secretary-Treasurer
References: *School Act*, Sections 6 and 85
Policy 5131 District Code of Student Conduct

BUS CONDUCT

PREAMBLE

Students must follow the established school and district codes of conduct while being transported under the jurisdiction of the school district.

Approved: 1978.06.20



BUS CONDUCT**REGULATIONS:**

1. Students shall abide by the district's Code of Conduct for Bus Students. A copy of the code will be given annually to all students who travel on school buses. A copy of the code shall be available on each bus and will be reviewed by the driver with the students at the beginning of each school year.
2. The bus driver is responsible for the supervision of students while the students are loading, unloading and in the school bus, and will report inappropriate conduct to the school Principal or the SD57 Transportation Administrator.
 - 2.1 The school Principal or the SD57 Transportation Administrator will determine the appropriate intervention for a student who has exhibited inappropriate conduct after investigating the reported misconduct. The school Principal or the SD57 Transportation Administrator will issue conduct notices to parents.
 - 2.2 Students suspended for bus misconduct are expected to attend school.
 - 2.3 Discipline processes will be reviewed annually by the SD57 Transportation Administrator and the bus contractor.
3. A full recovery of costs will be undertaken when students vandalize a bus or district property while en route, loading or unloading.
4. Persons wishing to appeal a decision made by an employee of the Board under this policy should refer to Bylaw No. 4, Appeals to the Board.

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Revised: 1993.06.01, 2002.11.26, 2016.05.31; 2020.09.29



ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES for use with Policy 5131.1:

Administrative procedures, including appendices, are the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Schools. They are included with policies for the purposes of transparency, clarity and ease of use.

“Administrative procedures” set out the specific management actions necessary at the school or department level to ensure that the policy and regulations are fully implemented

Background

Once students board a school bus they become the responsibility of the District. Therefore, the District regards a school bus as an extension of the classroom, and all students are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the same standards of behaviour that have been established for the classroom.

Students must follow the established school and District codes of conduct while being transported under the jurisdiction of the District.

Procedures

1. Students shall abide by the Appendix – Code of Conduct for Bus Students. A copy of the code will be given annually to all students who travel on school buses. A copy of the code shall be available on each bus.
2. At the beginning of each school year and as required during the year, bus drivers will advise students of the Appendix - Code of Conduct for Bus Students and the consequences for failing to follow the code.
3. Schools will review the information provided in the code of conduct for bus students with students each year.
4. Generally, intervention for bus misconduct will be determined by the school Principal and may be of escalating severity up to and including permanent suspension from riding the bus for continued inappropriate conduct.
5. Normally, the driver will notify the school and the SD57 Transportation Administrator of the misconduct at the time of the incident when the student disembarks from the bus.
6. Students who have been notified of a suspension from the bus are not to be refused entry to or expelled from a bus until the day following notice of suspension has been received by them. However, in extreme circumstances, where student safety or damage to the bus is involved, the bus driver has ultimate responsibility for the safety of the students and has the authority to refuse any student access to the bus.
7. When a conduct notice has been issued, the school Principal or the SD57 Transportation Administrator will contact the parents in writing, outlining the bus code of conduct and the determined intervention.



ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES - Continued:

8. Indefinite suspensions may be issued without following the regular conduct process as a result of a serious infraction such as:
 - 8.1 Striking another student or the driver;
 - 8.2 Flagrant disregard for the bus driver;
 - 8.3 Fighting;
 - 8.4 Willful damage to the bus;
 - 8.5 Possession of drugs, alcohol or weapons on the bus;
 - 8.6 Any behaviour that places the safety of the driver and other passengers at risk.
9. Indefinite suspensions require an interview with the parent(s), student, the school Principal or the SD57 Transportation Administrator and a representative of the bus contractor as requested by the SD57 Transportation Administrator to review the incident and to determine the duration of the suspension, before a student can be reinstated on the bus.
10. An appeal of a suspension of more than two days is to be made within five days of the suspension notice date to the SD57 Transportation Administrator, who, in consultation with the contractor and the school Principal, shall decide on the merits of the case.
11. In the event that students cause the bus to become unsafe due to their behavior, or if there is a suspicion or confirmation of drugs or alcohol consumption, the bus may be returned to the school of origin and students may be dropped off in the care of a school Principal or Vice Principal.
12. Behaviour strategies that may be used by a driver for misconduct on the bus include:
 - 12.1 Discussion with a school Principal or Vice Principal and parents;
 - 12.2 Seat assignments;
 - 12.3 Oral warnings to the student;
 - 12.4 Contractor and District reserving the right to reassign a student to an alternate bus.
13. The objective of the District is to provide safe transportation for students. Every opportunity is taken to educate students of the Code of Conduct for Bus Students and the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BUS STUDENTS

1. The SD57 Transportation Administrator and the District are committed to school transportation that respects three core values: SAFETY, RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY.
 - 1.1. Students are responsible to:
 - 1.1.1. Follow the driver's directions the FIRST time they are given.
 - 1.1.2. Keep their hands, feet and objects to themselves.
 - 1.1.3. Stay in their seats unless directed to do otherwise.
 - 1.1.4. Talk quietly, using only appropriate language.
 - 1.1.5. Be at the bus stop five minutes before scheduled leave time.
 - 1.1.6. Not eat or drink on the bus, without prior approval from the bus driver.
 - 1.1.7. Not bully or intimidate others.
 - 1.1.8. Not smoke, vape, take drugs or alcohol on the bus or at the bus stop.
 - 1.2. Non-registered riders MUST provide a note from their parent, signed by the Principal, in order to ride on a school bus.
 - 1.3. Students wanting to disembark at a stop other than their designated stop must provide a permission slip, signed by the Principal.
2. Student behaviour that contravenes the above values or whose actions distract the driver, cause or have the potential to cause harm or discomfort to themselves or others, is subject to consequences, which includes the following:
 - 2.1. Verbal warning from the bus driver (initially, in routine situations).
 - 2.2. Issue of a School Bus Conduct Notice by the School Principal or the SD57 Transportation Administrator outlining the misconduct and determined intervention.

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