

Adopted: 6.22.15

Revised: _____

709: STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY POLICY

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 rider ship.

II. PLAN FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING

A. School Bus Safety Week

The National School Bus Safety Week is the third week in October.

B. Student Training

1. The school shall provide students 8 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:
 - a. transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
 - b. school policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
 - c. appropriate conduct while on the bus;
 - d. the danger zones surrounding a school bus;
 - e. procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
 - f. procedures for safe vehicle lane crossing; and
 - g. school bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.
2. All students in 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. All students 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 two weeks of their first day of attendance.
3. The school will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.

III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR

- A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school'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 under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school's transportation safety coordinator and Director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law

enforcement.

1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules. The school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the school's discipline procedures are to be followed. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the school bus driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to the school's Transportation Office/School Office.
2. Rules at the Bus Stop
 - a. Get to your bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
 - b. Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
 - c. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
 - d. Use appropriate language.
 - e. Stay away from the street, road or highway when waiting for the bus.
 - f. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
 - g. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
 - h. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
 - i. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
 - j. No use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs.
3. Rules on the Bus
 - a. Follow the directions of the driver.
 - b. Sit in your seat facing forward.
 - c. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
 - d. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
 - e. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
 - f. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
 - g. Do not throw any object.
 - h. No eating, drinking or use of tobacco or drugs.
 - i. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
 - j. Do not damage the school bus.
4. Consequences

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extracurricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school administration. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

A specific listing of bus consequences is provided every year to the students from the transportation company. These consequences are reviewed as part of the bus safety training, and sent home for parent information. Additional copies of these consequences are available in the school office.
5. Records

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be retained in the same

manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that causes an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property will be provided by the school to the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.

6. Vandalism/Bus Damage
Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.
7. Notice
School bus and bus stop rules and consequences for violations of these rules will be reviewed with students annually and copies of these rules will be made available to students. School bus rules are to be posted on each school bus.
8. Criminal Conduct
In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, possession or vandalism), the appropriate school personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

- A. Parent and Guardian Notification
The school bus and bus stop rules will be provided to each family. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.
- B. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities for Transportation Safety
Parents/Guardians are responsible to:
 1. Become familiar with school rules, policies, regulations, and the principles of school bus safety, and thoroughly review them with their children;
 2. Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions;
 3. Communicate safety concerns to their school administrators;
 4. Monitor bus stops, if possible;
 5. Have their children to the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives;
 6. Have their children properly dressed for the weather; and
 7. Have a plan in case the bus is late.

V. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. School bus drivers shall have a valid Class A, B, or C Minnesota driver's license with a school bus endorsement. A person possessing a valid driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may drive a vehicle with a seating capacity of 10 or fewer persons used as a school bus, but not outwardly equipped or identified as a school bus. . Drivers with a valid Class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a "Type A" school bus or school van.

New Century School contracts transportation to certified and inspected transportation companies who comply with all state and federal laws regarding testing, licensing, drug testing, criminal background checks, and certifications.