

POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT BEHAVIOR WHILE RIDING SCHOOL BUSES OR VANS

6240

- 6240.1 Each building principal has responsibility for pupil transportation.
- 6240.2 Pupil behavior on a school bus or van is the principal's responsibility since infractions are to be referred to his/her office.
- 6240.3 Any student causing a disorder on the school bus or van must be reported by the DRIVER to the student's building principal.
- 6240.4 The principal will work cooperatively with parents, students, Transportation Coordinator, and Bus Driver. The principal will decide whether or not disciplinary action is necessary.
- 6240.5 When it is necessary, only the principal will administer disciplinary action.
- 6240.6 The following rules of conduct for bus riders shall be followed:
 - 6240.6a All seats shall be assigned by the Driver if a problem situation would arise.
 - 6240.6b The Driver is in charge of all students assigned to his/her bus.
 - 6240.6c Parents shall be held responsible for any damage to buses by students.
 - 6240.6d Students shall not transfer from one bus to another without proper authorization via the building principal, the Transportation Coordinator, and the child's parent or guardian by phone and in writing.
 - 6240.6e Upon a child being suspended from bus transportation, for misconduct, the parents are responsible to provide transportation until the suspension has ended.
 - 6240.6f No student may either eat, chew gum, drink, or smoke on any school district owned or contracted vehicle (unless on a field trip or extracurricular activity which would warrant eating on the bus).

- 6240.6g Foul language or disrespect to bus driver will not be tolerated.
- 6240.6h Students shall not put any part of their body outside the windows or throw objects in or out of bus.
- 6240.7 Drivers do not have the authority to administer punishment, in particular corporal punishment, as a result of student behavior but will report infractions immediately to the building principal and Transportation Coordinator.
- 6240.8 All bus problems relating to special education students shall be directed to the Director of Special Education for consultation and advice.
- 6240.9 School Bus and Van Discipline Rules:
- Students' behavior while waiting for the school bus or while riding the bus must be appropriate to assure the safety of all students.
- The following acts of misbehavior are subject to the specified discipline. The counting of offenses are specific to each section not added across sections.
- 6240.9a Pushing, hitting, shouting, tripping, littering, profane language, disrespectful to driver, eating or drinking, opening windows against driver's orders, arms or heads out of windows, refusing to identify him/herself to the bus driver, using an unassigned bus stop, changing seats or moving around while the bus is in motion (including safety seats assigned to the bus), or similar offenses deemed by the principal to merit the following penalties:
- First Offense - A warning and parents will be notified by phone and mail.
- Second Offense - Suspension of riding privileges for three (3) school days and parents will be notified by phone and mail. For secondary students, detention for three (3) days in addition to the above.

Third Offense - Suspension of riding privileges for ten (10) school days and parents will be notified by phone and mail. For secondary students, detention for five (5) days in addition to the above.

6240.9b Fighting, smoking, damaging the bus, throwing objects in the bus, throwing objects out of windows, opening exit doors, or other similar offenses deemed by the principal to merit the following penalties:

First Offense - Suspension of riding privileges for three (3) school days and parents will be notified by phone and mail. For secondary students, detention for three (3) days in addition to the above.

Second Offense - Suspension of riding privileges for ten (10) school days and parents will be notified by phone and mail. For secondary students, detention for five (5) days in addition to the above.

Third Offense - Suspension of riding privileges for twenty (20) school days and parents will be notified by phone and mail. For secondary students, detention for ten (10) days in addition to the above.

6240.9c Hitting or pushing the bus driver, throwing objects at the bus driver when he or she is on or off the bus or when the bus is in motion, or similar offenses deemed by the principal to merit the following penalty.

First Offense - Immediate suspension of riding privileges indefinitely and parents will be notified by phone and mail. A hearing will be held to determine the length of the suspension of privileges.

- 6240.10 Names of students and the nature of the misconduct shall be reported in writing on the proper form by the BUS DRIVER.
- 6240.10a Acts of misbehavior which occur during the morning trip shall be reported the same day that the alleged misbehavior occurred, preferably at the end of the morning trip.
- 6240.10b Alleged misconduct occurring during the afternoon bus trip will be documented the same day and reported the next.
- 6240.10c However, a student brought to school by school bus shall be returned home by bus prior to being suspended unless the principal deems the offense to warrant immediate suspension.
- 6240.11 The principal shall notify the parents of the nature of the misconduct and or any disciplinary action which has been taken by phone and by mail.
- 6240.12 If a serious injury should occur to other students or the driver (as determined by the superintendent or his designee) an automatic suspension from transportation for the remainder of the school year shall occur.
- 6240.13 Nothing in this policy precludes the administration or the board from enforcing discipline procedures for serious acts of misconduct that occur on district transportation.

Adopted: August 13, 1973
Revised: September 14, 1994
Revised: