

**School Bus Riders Handbook**  
Independent School District #879  
Stahlke Bus Service, Inc.

### **Conduct on School Buses and Consequences for Misbehavior**

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding school buses as are expected on school property or at school activities, functions or events. All school rules are in effect while a student is riding the bus or at the bus stop.

The building principal or the principal's designee will impose consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the Department of Public Safety and may be reported to local law enforcement.

#### A. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules.

The school district school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the school district 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 district's transportation office/school office.

#### B. Rules at the Bus Stop.

1. Get to your bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pick up time.  
The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
2. Respect the property of others while at your bus stop.
3. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
4. Use appropriate language.
5. Stay away from the street road or highway when waiting for the bus.
6. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
7. 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.
8. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
9. No use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

#### C. Rules on the Bus.

1. Immediately follow the direction of the driver.
2. Sit in your seat facing forward.
3. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.

5. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
6. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
7. Do not throw any object.
8. No eating, drinking or use of tobacco or drugs.
9. No weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
10. Do not damage the school bus.
11. No animals are allowed on any school bus.

D. 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 extra-curricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be at the sole discretion of the school district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

1. Elementary (K-6)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 3 school day suspension from riding the bus
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – 5 school day suspension from riding the bus
  - 4<sup>th</sup> offense – 10 school day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with parent
  - Further offenses – individually considered. Students may be suspended for longer periods of time, including the remainder of the school year.

Note: When a student goes 60 calendar days without a report, the student's consequences may start over at the first offense.

2. Secondary (7-12)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 5 school day suspension from riding the bus
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – 10 school day suspension from riding the bus
  - 4<sup>th</sup> offense – 20 school day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with parent
  - 5<sup>th</sup> offense—suspend from riding the bus for the remainder of the school year

3. Other Discipline.

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense,

consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school may result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

4. Records.

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct will be maintained in the transportation office.

5. 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.

6. Criminal Conduct.

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, possession or vandalism), the superintendent, local law enforcement officials and the Department of Public Safety will be informed.

E. Other Policies:

The school district and the bus company must have a written agreement form the parent to allow the student to be picked up or delivered to a place other than the parent's legal residence. Such agreements must be for the school year. In order to avoid confusion, the pupil must be picked up and returned to one residence every day.

Students may be required to walk .5 of a mile to the bus stop. If driveways are closer than .5 of a mile, pick up points will be designated.

All bus routes have turnarounds. We (Stahlke Bus Service, Inc. or District #879) will be using driveways as turnarounds. We are not responsible for any damage done to the driveway. If the bus cannot turn around in your driveway, the students(s) will be required to be at the prior bus stop. If there is a safe turn around within 100 yards, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to get written permission from the property owner to use the driveway as a turnaround.