



TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURE

NWOSSC 104

SECTION 100 GENERAL

104 STUDENT CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

Statement and Rationale

All students, parents, teachers, staff and members of the school community have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in their school community. Maintaining a high standard of safety and acceptable conduct during home to school transportation is particularly important. Every member of the school community has a role to play and expectations to follow.

Procedure

1.0 Bus Safety Rules

Students are responsible for observing all bus safety rules as presented in-school annually, communicated by the Bus Driver, and available on the Consortium website, www.nwobus.ca.

The Consortium, Bus Drivers, schools, and Parents/Legal Guardians will be responsible for clearly communicating these bus safety rules with students.

School Principals are responsible for ensuring that school bus safety practices are taught annually. The Consortium will support students to understand behaviour expectations while riding the bus by communicating through the Bus Driver, Parents, and programs such as First Rider, and School Bus Rider Safety Training. Bus Drivers will encourage all students to behave in a desired manner by promoting a positive relationship and approaching conversations openly and with respect.

2.0 Codes of Conduct and Standards of Behaviour

Ontario's school Code of Conduct (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/school-rules-provincial-code-conduct>) sets out rules and standards of behaviour for school communities. The Code of Conduct applies to all members of the school community, and all areas of the school system, including on school buses, and at bus stops. Schools and Boards may develop additional codes of conduct that will apply to their school community, including the school bus.

3.0 Behaviour Support and Reporting

When a behaviour expectation or standard of conduct is not met by a student on the bus, the following will occur:

- The Bus Driver will address the student by name to get their attention;
- The Bus Driver will explain the behaviour expectation that is not being met;
- If the student continues to have difficulty meeting the behaviour expectation, the Bus Driver will prepare a behaviour report to be submitted to the Consortium for follow up with the school.

In cases where a behaviour creates serious and imminent risk to the student, fellow riders or Bus Driver, the Bus Driver may pull over and call for support- up to, and including emergency services/ 911.

The Bus Driver is responsible for the safe operation of the bus and the safety and welfare of all students in accordance with the Ontario Highway Traffic Act.

The Consortium will review all behaviour reports and forward them to the appropriate school Principal(s) or designate. The Consortium may take measures to manage the bus environment, or to promote appropriate conduct.

The Consortium will work in consultation with the appropriate school(s) to promote a safe and positive environment on the bus.

In the event of a serious allegation regarding student behaviour or an incident, immediate action may be taken to protect students, Bus Drivers, or others on the bus while an investigation takes place. In the event that a student is removed from bussing during an investigation process, the removal will not be considered to be disciplinary and whenever possible alternative transportation will be offered to the student.

4.0 Vandalism

If a student is found to have caused willful damage to a school bus, the matter will be referred to the school Principal(s). The Parent/Legal Guardian will be responsible for the cost of repairing the damage, and students may be suspended from the bus until the situation is resolved to the satisfaction of the school Principal(s) and the Consortium.

An invoice for the repair costs associated with vandalism to a school bus will be provided by, and payable to, the Bus Operator. Repairs will be completed in the most cost-effective way possible, to restore a safe and clean bus environment.

5.0 Enforcement

The school bus is an extension of the classroom, and school Principals have the authority and responsibility to enforce the codes of conduct for students during home to school transportation, following their Board's procedures.

Consistent with transportation being a privilege and not a right, breach of the school Code of Conduct or bus safety rules may result in the suspension or cancellation of bussing privileges.

If it is determined by the school Principal that a student will be suspended from bussing, the Principal or designate will be responsible to inform the student and their parents, as well as the Consortium in writing before the suspension begins. This notification will include the first and last day of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension.

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Associated Policies/Procedures	NWOSSC 213 Use of Video Surveillance
References	3.0 Safety, 10.0 General