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MSBA/MASA Model Policy 709

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Beacon Academy Dist. #4124

709 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY POLICY

[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]

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 ridership.

II. PLAN FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING

A. School Bus Safety Week

The school district may designate a school bus safety week. The National School Bus Safety Week is the third week in October.

B. Student Training

1. The school district shall provide students enrolled in grades kindergarten (K) through 10 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:
 - a. transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
 - b. school district 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 grades K through 6 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 in grades 7 through 10 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training or receive bus safety instruction materials by the end of the sixth week of school, if they have not previously received school bus

training. Students in grades K through 10 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 four weeks of their first day of attendance.

3. The school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must provide students enrolled in grades K through 3 school bus safety training twice during the school year.
4. The school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must conduct a school bus evacuation drill at least once during the school year.
5. The school district will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.
6. The school district may provide kindergarten students with school bus safety training before the first day of school.
7. The school district may provide student safety education for bicycling and pedestrian safety for students in grades K through 5.
8. The school district shall adopt and make available for public review a curriculum for transportation safety education.

III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR

- A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school district's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses; including nonpublic and charter school students.
- B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school district under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school district's transportation safety director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.
 1. 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'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 district's Transportation Office/School Office.
 2. Rules at the Bus Stop

- a. Get to your bus stop ten 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 tobacco paraphernalia, or nicotine, nicotine inhalers or nicotine paraphernalia, or drugs.

3. Rules on the Bus

- a. Immediately 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 alcohol, tobacco or tobacco paraphernalia, or nicotine, nicotine inhalers or nicotine paraphernalia, or drugs.
- i. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.

j. Do not damage the school bus.

4. Consequences

a. 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 district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

(1) Elementary (K-6)

1st offense – warning and/or assigned seat

2nd offense – 3 school-day suspension from riding the bus or 1 month of assigned seating

3rd offense – 5 school-day suspension from riding the bus

4th 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.

(2) Secondary (7-12)

1st offense – warning and/or assigned seat

2nd offense – 5 school-day suspension from riding the bus or 1 month of assigned seating

3rd offense – 10 school-day suspension from riding the bus

4th offense – 20 school-day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with parent

5th offense – suspended 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 also 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 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 district to the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.

(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) 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.

(7) Criminal Conduct

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, possession or vandalism), the appropriate school district personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

A. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities for Transportation Safety

Parents/Guardians are responsible to:

1. Become familiar with school district 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 10 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.

The school board may establish a pupil transportation safety committee. The chair of the pupil transportation safety committee is the school district's school transportation safety director. The school board shall appoint the other members of the pupil transportation safety committee. Membership may include parents, school bus drivers, representatives of school bus companies, local law enforcement officials, other school district staff, and representatives from other units of local government.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks; Individual Instructor or Cooperative Learning Material; Standard Tests)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent School Districts; Transportation)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.885 (Diesel School Buses; Operation of Engine; Parking)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.90 (School Bus Safety Training)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.91 (School District Bus Safety Responsibilities)
Minn. Stat. § 169.01, Subds. 6 and 92 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 169.446, Subds. 2 and 3 (Driver Training and Education Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 169.454 (Type III Vehicle Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 169.4582 (Reportable Offense on School Buses)
Minn. Stat. § 171.02, Subd 2a (Licenses; Types, Endorsements, Restrictions)
Minn. Stat. § 171.321 (Qualifications of a School Bus Driver)
Minn. Rules Parts 7470.1000-7470.1700 (School Bus Inspection)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 707 (Transportation of Public Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 708 (Transportation of Nonpublic Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 710 (Extracurricular Transportation)