

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #414

MINNEOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS - MINNEOTA, MN 56264

August 2022

Parents/Students:

Minneota Public Schools and 4.0 Bus Service strive to provide safe and efficient school bus transportation to and from school and for various activities. It is necessary to have explicit rules and regulations to protect each student's welfare. Every child, regardless of age, has responsibility for following these rules. They should realize that carelessness, thoughtlessness, or misconduct can cause injury to themselves or their fellow passengers.

Please review the safety rules listed below with your child.

- I. Only students and staff assigned to the bus by the school authority may be transported.
- II. If your son/daughter wishes to ride on another bus to get off at a friend's home, they must present a note to their respective Principal (or their designee) in advance for permission before getting on that bus.
- III. **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.

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by 4.0 Bus Service, the Building Principal, or the Principal's designee. In addition, a copy of all school bus/bus stop misconduct reports will be given to the Building Principal. Serious 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 4.0 Bus Service school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. The Bus Service's discipline procedures must be followed if these rules are broken. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. The school bus driver must report unacceptable behavior to the 4.0 Bus Service manager.

B. Rules at the Bus Stop

1. Get to your bus stop 3 minutes before your scheduled pickup time. The school bus driver will, and can, not wait for late students.
2. Respect the property of others while waiting 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. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.

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7. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
8. 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.
9. Do not fight, harass, intimidate, or engage in horseplay.
10. Do not use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
11. Follow all other School District policies.

C. Rules on the Bus

1. Immediately follow the directions the driver gives.
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. Do not fight, harass, intimidate, or engage in horseplay.
7. Do not throw any objects.
8. Do not use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
9. Do not bring weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
10. Do not damage the school bus.
11. Eating or drinking on the bus is left to the bus driver's discretion.
12. Follow all other School District policies.

D. Consequences

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes, co-curricular events and extracurricular events (field trips or competitions). Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges. All decisions are made by 4.0 Bus Service in conjunction with the school district.

1. Elementary (K-6)

- 1st offense: Warning and a letter to parent
- 2nd offense: 3-day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with the parent
- 3rd offense: 5-day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with the parent
- 4th offense: 10-day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with the parent

Further offenses - will be 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 parent notification
- 2nd offense: 3-day suspension from riding the bus/parent notification
- 3rd offense: 5-day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with the parent
- 4th offense: Suspended for the remainder of the school year/meeting with a parent

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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 also 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 provided to the Department of Public Safety. Records may also be maintained in the transportation office.

5. Vandalism/Bus Damage

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay for such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until paid.

6. Notice

Students will be provided a copy of school bus and bus stop rules. Rules are to be posted on each bus and both practices and consequences will be periodically reviewed with students by the driver.

7. 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.

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School Late Starts and School Closing Procedures

Delaying or closing school because of bad weather is a decision that is often made with short notice to students, parents, and staff. I have found that a late start due to fog is one of the more difficult decisions, as fog can be spotty or move in after buses are sent out. For me, these decisions are based on common sense, and I tend to make decision based on the safety of our students, staff, and families.

Given the weather conditions when school is open, parents may not want to send their child on the bus, and the school respects the parental right to keep them home. The list of radio/TV stations that the school contacts are noted in the student handbooks.

Several tasks occur before deciding to either delay or close school. Depending on weather and road conditions, the decision on a late start or close for the day is made as early as possible, typically before 6:00 a.m. It is possible weather will dictate a variation.

If we proceed with a late start, the decision to remain closed or open two hours late is made as early as possible, typically around 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is canceled for the day when school is on a two-hour late start. Morning school activities and field trips will also be canceled or rescheduled for another day.

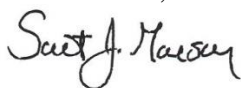
All school activities, practices, and community education events are canceled if school is closed early or canceled for the day. The Activities Director may make exceptions, in consultation with other school staff and administration.

Once the decision is made to close early, radio/TV stations will be notified, and an announcement is made through SchoolMessenger that the school will be closing along with the time buses will leave. Both staff and students should have an alternate place to stay if the weather does not permit them to go home.

Given the use of cell phones, word travels quickly on school day changes which sometimes is helpful and other times causes confusion. School closing procedures allow staff to have an orderly process for getting the students home safely.

My first priority will always be the safety and well-being of our students, staff, bus drivers, and families. For questions, please reach out to the elementary, high school, or district office.

In education,



Scott Monson
Superintendent