

### **STUDENT CONDUCT ON BUSES**

The privilege of riding a school bus is contingent upon a student's good behavior and observance of established regulations for student conduct at bus stops and on District owned or operated buses.

The driver of a school bus shall be responsible for the safety of the students on the bus during the ride. Therefore, it is the bus driver's duty to notify the Student Management Department at Transportation Services if any student persists in violating the established rules of conduct.

After notification has been given to the student and her/his parents, the Student Management Department or the Director of Transportation or designee may withhold from the student the privilege of riding the school bus. The student also may be denied admission to school, suspended or expelled, in accordance with established policies, for flagrant violation of school bus rider conduct regulations or conduct detrimental to the safe operation of the bus.

Situations in which the student's actions result in the immediate endangerment of the safety, health or welfare of others, including student passengers, may necessitate the postponement of due process until after suspension.

Where the student whose bus privileges may be suspended or revoked is receiving special education services, Exceptional Student Services will be consulted prior to the suspension or revocation, unless there exists an immediate danger to the safety, health or welfare of others. In such cases bus privileges may be immediately suspended and Exceptional Student Services shall be consulted as soon as possible.

**CROSS REFS.:**       EEAE, Bus Safety Program  
                          JICI, Weapons in School  
                          JK.1, Student Discipline  
                          JKD/JKE, Suspension/Expulsion of Students

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- A. Bus drivers shall report to the Student Management Department of Transportation Services those students who violate established District rules for riding a school bus, or otherwise interfere with the health, safety or welfare of others either on or off the bus.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of the principal, Student Management Department or Transportation Director (or designee) to take appropriate action regarding reported violations of student conduct. Disciplinary actions may include, but not necessarily be limited to suspension or revocation of a student's bus riding privilege.
1. A school principal, Student Management Department or Transportation Director (or designee) may suspend a student's bus riding privilege from one to 60 school days.
  2. A school principal, Student Management Department or Transportation Director (or designee) may suspend a student's bus riding privilege for another one to 60 school days, in addition to the days which a school principal may suspend the child from school independently.
  3. Transportation Services may recommend to the Superintendent of Schools that a student's bus riding privilege be revoked for whatever period of time deemed necessary.
  4. If a situation presents an immediate threat to the health, safety or welfare of students or other persons or property, the Student Management Department or the Transportation Director (or designee) may impose an immediate suspension pending further investigation.
- C. **Procedure to Suspend or Revoke a Student's Bus Riding Privilege**
1. The principal, Student Management Department or Transportation Director (or designee) shall give the student oral or written notice of the charges in enough detail to allow the student to understand the nature of the accusation.
  2. If the student denies the charges, the principal, Student Management Department, or Transportation Director (or designee) shall give the student an explanation of the evidence supporting the charges, and the pupil shall be given an opportunity to present her/his argument.

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3. In unusual situations or if the principal, Student Management Department, or Transportation Director (or designee) believe it necessary in order to resolve disputes about facts and arguments, the principal, Student Management Department or Transportation Director (or designee), at her/his or their discretion, and in addition to (1) and (2) above, may summon the accuser and witnesses, permit confrontation and cross-examination of same and may allow the pupil to present her/his own witnesses.
4. The principal, Student Management Department or Transportation Director (or designee) may suspend only if, after the above procedure, it is believed that the charges are supported by substantial evidence, i.e. "such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion."
5. As soon as practical, the principal, Student Management Department or Transportation Director (or designee) shall notify the student's parent or guardian orally and in writing as to the basis for suspension, listing the duration of the suspension, and the time and date the student's bus riding privileges are to be reinstated. A student should not be sent home before the end of the school day without prior notification to the parent or guardian. In situations where a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, the student may be immediately suspended and removed from the bus, with the informal hearing procedure to follow as soon as practical.
6. Whenever it becomes necessary for the Student Management Department or Transportation Director to extend a suspension invoked by a principal or Transportation Director (or designee), or the Superintendent of Schools to revoke a bus riding privilege, the foregoing informal hearing process shall again apply if requested by the student or the parent or guardian.
7. Where the student bus privileges may be suspended or revoked is receiving special education services, Exceptional Student Services will be consulted prior to the suspension or revocation, unless there exists an immediate danger to the safety, health or welfare of others. In such cases bus privileges may be immediately suspended and Exceptional Student Services shall be consulted as soon as possible.

## **BUS TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES**

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While on District vehicles, all Aurora Public Schools children are expected to behave in a manner consistent with building/classroom behavior. Colorado State law does not require districts to provide transportation. Aurora Public Schools considers bus transportation a privilege. Parent cooperation and support is important in reinforcing these procedures:

1. **Unsafe Items:** Any items which would endanger the lives, health or safety of the passengers or driver should not be brought on the bus. This includes animals, breakable items and weapons of any sort.
2. **Authorized Persons:** Only students authorized by the school principal ride on District buses. Bus passes may be issued to students at the secondary level.
3. **Waiting Period - Bus Stops:** Students are expected to arrive at the bus stop no more than five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive, students are expected to be courteous and respect the property of others.
4. **Multi-Step Progressive Discipline Plan:** Drivers take a multi-step progressive discipline plan to solve problems on the bus when issuing a citation (except for serious violations). This may include warnings, moving a student to another seat, assigning a seat, etc.

### **The following rules must be followed on District vehicles by all children:**

1. Remain seated and behave appropriately; behavior distractions compromise transportation safety;
2. Speak in a quiet manner and do not use profanity;
3. Keep hands and head inside the bus;
4. Be courteous to fellow riders and driver;
5. Take care of the bus and its equipment. Do not take part in any vandalism;
6. Tobacco, drugs and alcohol are not to be used on the bus;
7. Do not tamper with the emergency door/windows/bus equipment; and

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8. Unsafe items, weapons and large instruments cannot be carried on the bus. The school bus driver may assign seats. Misbehavior can result in removal from the bus for one to 60 days.