

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: E-Support Services
CATEGORY: EE-Transportation
Services Management
POLICY CODE: EEACC-Student Conduct
On School Buses
(also JFCCC)

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Policy

The principal of each school has the only authority to deny bus transportation, in the interest of safety, to any student who disobeys bus regulations. The provisions of Connecticut State Statute 10-186 will apply.

Adopted: 10/5/76
Amended: 7/25/95
Revised: 11/5/97

Regulations

This regulation is instituted for the safety of the riders on school buses. Strict obedience is necessary in order to insure the safety of everyone.

1. Bus Rules for Students

a. Loading

- 1) Students should dress properly for the weather. Students should make sure all drawstrings, ties, straps, scarves, toggles, etc., on all clothing, backpacks and other items, are shortened or removed so they will not get caught in bus doors, railings or aisles.
- 2) Students are assigned to a definite bus stop. Students should take their assigned bus morning and afternoon.
- 3) Students should arrive on time at the bus stop and stay away from the street while waiting for the bus.
- 4) Students should cross the street only on the driver's signal.
- 5) Students should stay away from the bus until it stops and the driver signals them to board. Students should enter in single file without pushing. Students should use the handrail.
- 6) Students should take a seat right away and remain seated facing forward with backpack on lap.

b. Riding

- 1) Students should always listen to the driver's instructions. Students should be courteous to the driver and other students. Students should sit with their hands to themselves and avoid making noises that would distract the driver or bother other passengers.
- 2) Students should help keep the bus neat and clean. Students should keep belongings out of the aisle and away from emergency exits. Eating, drinking and smoking are not allowed on the bus.
- 3) Students should not stand while bus is moving.
- 4) Students shall keep hands, arms and head inside the bus at all times.
- 5) Students shall refrain from throwing things in the bus and/or throwing things in or out of the windows of the bus.
- 6) Students shall refrain from verbal and/or physical harassment and any other unmannerly conduct.
- 7) Students shall not play with the Emergency Door handle on the bus.

Regulations-continued

- 8) Students shall not carry potentially dangerous items on the bus such as firearms, knives, explosives, bats, scissors, sharp instruments, glassware and other dangerous objects which are expressly prohibited in school buildings and on school ground. Students shall not carry alcohol or non-prescribed drugs on the bus.
- 9) Students shall not scratch, mar, break, cut, write-on, deface in any manner, any part of the bus.

c. Unloading

- 1) Students are not to stand until their bus has stopped.
- 2) Students should use handrails when leaving the bus.
- 3) Students who must cross the street after getting off the bus, should wait for the driver's signal and then cross 6 feet in front of the bus. Students should cross the street only after checking both ways for traffic.
- 4) Students should not walk along the side of the bus. Students should wait where the driver can see them and begin walking after the bus has left.
- 5) Students should go directly home in an orderly manner.
- 6) Students should not run back to the bus, even if they dropped or forgot something.

2. Violation of Bus Rules

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain appropriate conduct on school buses. Accordingly, the Board of Education authorizes the installation of video cameras on school buses as an aid in monitoring student behavior. These cameras produce video and audio coverage. The tapes from these cameras will be used to assist school administrators in deciding upon appropriate disciplinary action. When, in the opinion of the principal, a student is in violation of the bus rules, he will take the following steps:

- a. A written warning will be issued to the parent/parents or legal guardian/guardians on the first offense.
- b. Transportation will be denied for a period of from 3 to 6 days on the second offense.

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Regulations-continued

- c. Transportation will be denied for a longer period with succeeding offenses.
- d. The first two steps may be waived and the third implemented in cases where the misbehavior is deemed to be of a serious nature.
- e. Consequences of such violations may ultimately result in expulsion from school.

Approved: 10/5/76

Amended: 7/95

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Reference

- Section 10-186, Duties of Local and Regional Boards of Education. Hearing. Appeal.
- Policy on Standard of Conduct, JFC.
- Policy on Emergency Bus Evacuation, JFCCA (also EEACD)