

Parnassus Preparatory School

Executive Limitations Policies Group

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY POLICY – EXEC 709

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 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 shall provide students enrolled in grades kindergarten (K) through 12 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:
 - a. transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
 - b. school 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 12 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. Students in grades K through 12 who enroll in a school after the second week of school, are transported by school bus, and have not received training in their previous schools shall undergo school bus safety training or receive bus

safety instructional materials within four weeks of their first day of attendance.

3. The school must conduct a school bus evacuation drill at least once during the school year.
4. The school will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.
5. The school may provide kindergarten students with school bus safety training before the first day of school.
6. The school may provide student safety education for bicycling and pedestrian safety for students in grades K through 12.

III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR

- A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses.
- B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school's transportation safety director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.
 1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules. If the school safety rules broken, the school's discipline procedures are to be followed. In most circumstances, 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's office.
 2. Rules at the Bus Stop
 - a. Get to your bus stop five 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 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 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 routes. Because student bus transportation is a privilege, not a right, decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus to or from school, or in connection with co-curricular and extracurricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school. The school generally will use progressive discipline to the extent reasonable and appropriate based on the specific facts and circumstances of student misconduct. However, the specific form of discipline resulting from a student's violation of rules or misbehavior including the duration of time that a student's bus privileges are suspended is solely within the discretion of the

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

(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 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 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.

(7) Criminal Conduct

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

IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

A. Parent and Guardian Notification

The school bus and bus stop rules will be communicated to each family. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.

B. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities for Transportation Safety

Parents/Guardians are responsible to:

1. Become familiar with school 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 five 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.

V. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. School bus drivers shall have a valid Class A, B, or C Minnesota driver’s license with a school bus endorsement. A person possessing a valid driver’s license, without a school bus endorsement, may drive a type III vehicle set forth in Sections VII.B. and VII.C., as allowable under federal and state law and enforced by the school’s bus company. Drivers with a valid Class D driver’s license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a “type A-I” school bus as set forth in Section VII.D., as allowable under federal and state law and enforced by the school’s bus company.
- B. The school shall take all steps needed to ensure that mandatory drug and alcohol testing of all bus drivers have been conducted in accordance with state and federal law and school policy and that the bus company has ensured strict compliance with all state and federal laws that relate to bus drivers, safety and other student transportation concerns.

VI. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING

- A. The school shall investigate and confirm that the bus company with which it contracts implements an effective and meaningful training program, annual bus driver evaluation process and certification process for all school bus drivers.

VII. OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES

- A. General Operating Rules

1. School buses shall be operated in accordance with state traffic and school bus safety laws and the procedures contained in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.
 2. Only students assigned to the school bus by the school shall be transported. The number of students or other authorized passengers transported in a school bus shall not be more than the legal capacity for the bus. No person shall be allowed to stand when the bus is in motion.
 3. The parent/guardian may designate, pursuant to school policy, a day care facility, respite care facility, the residence of a relative, or the residence of a person chosen by the parent or guardian as the address of the student for transportation purposes. The address must be in the boundaries set by the board of directors and meet all other eligibility requirements.
 4. Bus drivers must minimize, to the extent practical, the idling of school bus engines and exposure of children to diesel exhaust fumes.
 5. To the extent practical, the school will designate school bus loading/unloading zones at a sufficient distance from school air-intake systems to avoid diesel fumes from being drawn into the systems.
 6. A bus driver may not operate a school bus while communicating over, or otherwise operating, a cellular phone for personal reasons, whether hand-held or hands free, when the vehicle is in motion. For purposes of this paragraph, “school bus” has the meaning given in Minn. Stat. § 169.01, Subd. 6. In addition, “school bus” also includes type III vehicles when driven by employees or agents of the school. “Cellular phone” means a cellular, analog, wireless, or digital telephone capable of sending or receiving telephone or text messages without an access line for service.
- B. Only emergency, unscheduled transportation may be conducted in vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or fewer without meeting the requirements for a type III vehicle. Also, parents may use a private vehicle to transport their own children. The school has no system of inspection for private vehicles.

VIII. SCHOOL BUS EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- A. If possible, school bus drivers or their supervisors shall call “911” or the local emergency phone number in the event of a serious emergency.
- B. School bus drivers shall meet the emergency training requirements contained in Unit III “Crash & Emergency Preparedness” of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual. This includes procedures in the event of a crash (accident).

- C. School bus drivers and bus assistants for special education students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition shall be trained in basic first aid procedures, shall within one month after the effective date of assignment participate in a program of in-service training on the proper methods for dealing with the specific needs and problems of students with disabilities, assist students with disabilities on and off the bus when necessary for their safe ingress and egress from the bus; and ensure that protective safety devices are in use and fastened properly.
- D. Emergency Health Information shall be maintained on the school bus for students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition. The information shall state:
 - 1. the student's name and address;
 - 2. the nature of the student's disabilities;
 - 3. emergency health care information; and
 - 4. the names and telephone numbers of the student's physician, parents, guardians, or custodians, and some person other than the student's parents or custodians who can be contacted in case of an emergency.

IX. SCHOOL VEHICLE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

The school will secure assurances that all school vehicles are being maintained in safe operating conditions through a systematic preventive maintenance and inspection program adopted or approved by the school; and, that all school vehicles are being state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.

X. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DIRECTOR

The school has designated an individual to serve as the school's school transportation safety director. The school transportation safety director shall have day-to-day responsibility for student transportation safety. The school transportation safety director will assure that this policy is periodically reviewed to ensure that it conforms to law. The school transportation safety director shall annually confirm that each school bus driver meets the school bus driver training competencies required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 4. The transportation safety director shall annually verify or ensure that the private contractor utilized by the school has verified the validity of the driver's license of each employee who regularly transports students for the school in a type A, B, C, or D school bus, type III vehicle, or MFSAB with the National Driver's Register or the Department of Public Safety. The school transportation safety director also shall certify that students have received school bus safety training in accordance with state law. The name, address and telephone number of the school transportation safety director are on file in the school

office. Any questions regarding student transportation or this policy may be addressed to the school transportation safety director.

XI. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Board approved May 14, 2019