

Discipline Procedures for District-Approved Student Transportation

All students eligible for district-approved student transportation shall receive safety instruction and a code of conduct.

Violation of the code of conduct or conduct, which jeopardizes the health/safety of self and/or others, may result in the loss of district-approved transportation services.

The following procedures address: safety instructions, code of conduct, violations, suspension, expulsion, right of appeal, reinstatement, education, and special education students.

I. Safety Instructions

- A. Each September and January the transportation supervisor will direct all bus drivers to conduct a safety review with all students who are transported regularly by the District.
 - 1. Safe school bus riding procedures, including but not limited to loading, unloading, crossing etc;
 - 2. Use of emergency exits; and
 - 3. Planned and orderly evacuation of the school bus in case of emergency, including participation in actual evacuation drills.

- B. Each September and January the transportation supervisor will direct all bus drivers to conduct a safety review with all other students.
 - 1. The drivers shall review safe bus riding procedures.
 - 2. The drivers shall review use of emergency exits.

- C. The transportation supervisor will record dates and content of safety instructions by each driver. Such information shall be kept as a part of the district's records.

II. Code of Conduct

Each year the District will include the following transportation rules in the student/parent handbook. The District will provide interpretation to those students/parents whose primary language is not English.

While riding a school bus, students will:

1. Obey the driver at all times;
2. Not throw objects;
3. Not have in their possession any weapon as defined by Board policy JFCJ - Weapons in the Schools;
4. Not fight, wrestle or scuffle;
5. Not stand up and/or move from seats while the bus is in motion;
6. Not extend hands, head, feet or objects from windows or doors;
7. Not possess matches or other incendiaries and concussion devices;
8. Use emergency exits only as directed by the bus driver;
9. Not damage school property or personal property of others;
10. Not threaten or physically harm the driver or other riders;
11. Not do any disruptive activity, which might cause the driver to stop the bus in order to reestablish order;
12. Not make disrespectful or obscene statements;
13. Not possess and/or use tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs;
14. Not eat or chew gum;
15. Not carry glass containers or other glass objects;
16. Not take onto the bus, skateboards, musical instruments or other large objects, which might pose safety risks or barriers to safe entry and exit from the bus;
17. Accept assigned seats;
18. Stay away from the bus when it is moving;
19. Be at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick up time (schedule will be posted on all buses);
20. Answer to coaches, teachers, and chaperons who are responsible for maintaining order on trips.

Items 3-13: These regulations, if broken, are SEVERE violations with severe consequences because of the threat to the safety of others.

Item 20: Coaches, teachers and chaperons (1) must have a copy of the bus regulations and know them before going on a trip and (2) must position themselves on the bus as to be in control of discipline at all times.

III. Violations

Each year the District will include the following procedures for violations in the student/parent handbook. The District will provide interpretation to those students/parents whose primary language is not English.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR VIOLATIONS

First Citation - Warning*: The driver verbally restates behavior expectations and issues a warning citation*. The driver may assign the student to a particular seat.

Second Citation*: The student is suspended from the bus until a conference, arranged by the transportation supervisor, has been held with the student, the parent, the bus driver, the transportation supervisor and the principal.

Third Citation* of the year: The student receives a 5- to 10-day suspension and will not be able to ride the bus until a conference, arranged by [the transportation supervisor], has been held with the student, the parent, the bus driver, the transportation supervisor and the principal. At this time a behavior contract will be made with the student and a bus seat may be assigned. Further violations of bus regulations will be considered a severe violation.

Severe Violations: Any severe violation will result in the immediate suspension of the student for a minimum of 10 days, and up to a 1-year expulsion. There will be a hearing at this time, arranged by the transportation supervisor, involving the student, the bus driver, the transportation supervisor, the parent and the principal. Any violation that violates district policy is grounds for an expulsion, which will be initiated by the building administrator.

In all instances, the appeal process may be used if the student and/or parent desires.

*All citations must be signed by the parents, the bus driver, and the principal before the student will be allowed to ride the bus again.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

If a student or parent wishes to appeal the application of the discipline policy, the steps outlined below should be used. If the student or parent wishes to complain about a school employee's decision, Board policy KLD - Public Complaints about District Personnel and KLD-AR-Public Complaints About Staff may be obtained from the District Office.

- STEP I The student or his/her representative will discuss the issue with the transportation supervisor and principal.
- STEP II If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of the discussion, he/she may file a written statement with the principal and transportation supervisor. This is to be done within ten (10) school days of the act or condition, which is the basis of the complaint. The administration will, within three school days, arrange a student, parent/guardian, transportation supervisor, and principal conference with the goal of resolving the issue.
- STEP III Within five school days, the principal is to verbally communicate the decision to the student and the student's parents/guardians. The administrator will follow up the verbal communication with a written decision letter in a timely manner.
- STEP IV If, after five school days from receipt of the administrator's reply, the issue still remains unresolved the student may submit the matter in writing to the superintendent. The superintendent will meet with the student and his/her representative within three school days and will respond to the issue, in writing, within five school days after the appeal. The decision of the superintendent is final.

IV. Suspension Procedures

- A. Due process procedures used by the district governing student behavior shall be applied.
1. Suspension hearings shall be conducted in private, and will be more informal than is the case of an expulsion hearing. The hearing will be conducted by the superintendent or designated representative. The procedure should be more of a conversation between the two parties than a formal hearing;
 2. The student will be informed of the violation(s) and given the opportunity to be heard and present his/her view of the occurrence;
 3. If suspension is to follow, the student will be given the reason(s) for the action, the duration of the suspension and the tentative procedures for reinstatement.
 4. If possible, parents will be notified immediately by telephone of the suspension and given reasons for the action. The parents will be encouraged to conference with the building administrator. Arrangement should be made for the student's transportation to and from school;
 5. The written communication shall be mailed to the student and the parent or legal guardian restating the reasons for the action(s), the duration of the suspension and procedure for arranging a mutually satisfactory time for the a conference for possible re-admittance;
 6. The written communication shall state that the parent may appeal the reason for suspension and the duration of suspension to the appropriate administrator;
 7. In special or emergency circumstances a suspension may be continued until some specific pending action occurs, such as physical or mental examination, incarceration by court action or if there is a serious risk that substantial harm will occur if the suspension is terminated pending an intended expulsion.

A standardized school bus incident report will be developed and used to inform parents of any disciplinary action that has taken place. The infraction will be noted and a description of the incident will be included. The report must be signed and returned by the parent/guardian.

V. Expulsion Procedures

- A. Due process procedures used by the district governing student behavior shall be applied. Students will not be expelled without a hearing unless the student's parents waive the right to a hearing, either in writing or by failure to appear at a scheduled hearing. By waiving the right to a hearing, the student and parent agree to abide by the findings of a hearings officer

When an expulsion hearing is not waived, the following procedure is required:

1. Notice will be given to the student and the parent by personal service or by certified mail at least five (5) school days prior to the scheduled hearing. Notice will include:
 - a. The specific charge or charges;
 - b. The conduct constituting the alleged violation, including the nature of the evidence of the violation;
 - c. A recommendation for expulsion;
 - d. The student's right to a hearing;
 - e. When and where the hearing will take place; and
 - f. The right to representation;
2. The superintendent or designee will act as hearings officer. The District may contract with an individual who is not employed by the District to serve as the hearings officer. The hearings officer will conduct the hearing and will not be associated with the initial actions of the building administrators;
3. In case the parent or student have difficulty understanding the English language or have other serious communication disabilities, the District shall provide a translator;
4. The student will be permitted to have a representative present at the hearing to advise and to present arguments. The representative may be an attorney and/or parent. The District's attorney may be present;
5. The student will be afforded the right to present his/her version of the charge(s) and to introduce evidence by testimony, writings or other exhibits;
6. The student will be permitted to be present and to hear the evidence presented by the District;
7. The hearings officer will determine the facts of each case on the evidence presented at the hearing. Evidence may include the relevant past history and student education records. Findings of fact as to whether the student has committed the alleged conduct will be submitted to the Board, along with the officer's decision on disciplinary action, if any, including the duration of any expulsion. This decision will be available in identical form to the Board, the student and the student's parents or guardians at the same time;
8. The hearings officer or the student may make a record of the hearing;
9. The hearings officer's decision is final. However, this decision may be appealed to the Board. At its next regular meeting, the Board will review in executive session the hearings officer's decision and will affirm, modify or reverse the decision. Parents or students who wish to appeal the hearings officer's decision must follow the guidelines set up in policy JGE-Expulsions;
10. Expulsion hearings will be conducted in private and board review of the hearings officer's decision will be conducted in executive session unless the student or the

student's parent requests a public hearing. If an Executive Session is held by the Board or a private hearing is held by the hearing officer, the following will not be made public:

- a. The name of the minor student;
- b. The issue involved;
- c. The discussion;
- d. The vote of Board members, which may be taken in executive session.

VI. Right of Appeal

- A. At each step of the discipline procedures used in district -approved transportation services, parents, students and/or a representative have a right to appeal.
- B. All appeals must be in writing.
- C. Appeals are to be made to the responsible person at the level of appeal.
- D. Final appeal may be made to the Board.
- E. Board decisions are final.

VII. Reinstatement

- A. A conference to discuss reinstatement shall be conducted under the following guidelines:
 1. When deemed necessary, parent(s) and student shall be present at the conference;
 2. The principal shall fully explain matters and permit the parties involved to fully explain their positions;
 3. The principal shall make a decision, which provides guidelines for the student to follow when transportation services are reinstated.

VIII. Education

- A. Disciplinary action for violating the transportation code of conduct and/or transportation health and safety requirements shall be confined to District - approved transportation services. Therefore, students who have lost District approved transportation services through a disciplinary action shall be expected to continue with the District's educational requirements.
- B. Student's academic grades will reflect academic achievement. Therefore, misconduct or absenteeism shall not be a sole criterion for grade reduction. However, students will be expected to continue to meet the District's attendance and educational requirements.
- C. Make-up work may be provided: If make-up work is needed, the District's policy and procedures will be followed.

- D. Alternative education may be provided. If alternative education is needed, the District's policy and procedures will be followed.

VIII. Special Education Students

Special education students will be disciplined in accordance with Board policy JGDA/JGEA - Discipline of Disabled Students and accompanying Administrative Regulation (AR).