

## **Student Transportation Regulations**

In addition to the rules adopted by the Oregon Department of Education, local districts are authorized to adopt and enforce rules that will further enhance a safe, comfortable and efficient transportation system. Therefore, the Pine Eagle School District adopts the following rules to supplement the state rules:

1. Large items which cannot be safely transported while held in a student's lap are prohibited;
2. Students shall not interfere with any of the school bus operating controls except as instructed by the driver;
3. Students shall be at their regular bus stop at least three minutes prior to the posted time schedule;
4. Students shall not damage or attempt to damage public or private property at any time;
5. Students shall accept rider registration cards, citations for misconduct and other forms; these forms must be completed and returned as indicated;
6. Due to the possibility of school bus mechanical failure or accident during inclement weather conditions, students shall wear clothing that is compatible with the current season of the year. Periodically students shall participate in school bus evacuation drills, and students will be instructed as to the type of clothing that should be worn the day of the drill;
7. Students waiting in a bus stop area are expected to abide by all the preceding rules; the rules apply at the bus stop as well as on the bus.

### **Restrictions on Cargo and Passengers**

School buses shall transport only students or persons authorized by the district office while making the regular route. School officials may authorize other persons to ride in the school buses on special occasions having to do with school affairs.

Large musical instruments, large bags of uniforms and other bulky baggage will not be allowed on school buses except for special trips where necessary arrangements are made in advance.

Students carrying baggage will be allowed on buses only if they are capable of holding the item(s) they are carrying. If the baggage requires extra seating space or must be left in the aisle, they will be refused passage. Space under the seats may be utilized.

Glass containers will not be allowed on school buses. Glass containers inside a lunch box will be acceptable.

Consumption of food or beverages while aboard school buses is prohibited. This regulation may be waived by cooperative agreement between the driver and teacher on trips other than to and from school when conditions exist that make it feasible to do so.

## Discipline Procedures

Bus company officials will make every effort to communicate directly with parents of students who are experiencing behavior problems to encourage corrective action before the problem becomes more serious.

Positive approaches to correcting student misconduct on the bus and at the bus stop are not always successful. Therefore, it will be necessary at times to temporarily or permanently suspend a student's transportation privilege. To ensure equal and consistent criteria throughout the district for determining when a student's transportation privilege will be suspended and for what length of time, the following schedule of standard suspension periods will generally apply\*:

1. First Citation-Warning: The driver verbally restates behavior expectations and issues a warning citation.
2. Second Citation: The student can be suspended from the bus up to five school days.
3. Third Citation: The student can be suspended from the bus for up to 10 days.
4. Severe Violations: Serious infractions, regardless of the student's prior record of misconduct, involving physical or verbal assault against bus riders or drivers, interference with the bus operating controls, or vandalism will result in immediate suspension for a minimum of 10 school days and up to a one-year expulsion.

\* For special education students, suspensions from the school bus are considered suspensions from school if they effectively prevent the student from accessing the school. Suspensions for more than 10 consecutive calendar days or 10 cumulative school days, including school bus suspensions, require that the IEP team for the student be convened to determine whether the misconduct is related to the student's disability or is the result of an inappropriate placement.

- Citations are cumulative over the immediate past 12-month period.
- The degree of inherent danger associated with the misconduct incident or acts of misconduct that are so antisocial or disruptive in nature as to shock the conscience are factors considered before determining if a suspension of bus riding privileges will occur and the length of the suspension.
- Continued incidents of assault, verbal or physical, interfering with bus controls or vandalism will lead to an expulsion from bus riding privileges for up to one year.
- Suspension periods may be extended if warranted by type and frequency of misconduct.
- Students receiving citations for misconduct must secure the signature of their parent and school principal, and present the signed citation to the bus driver to be eligible to resume riding privileges following the suspension period indicated on the citation.
- Parents who wish to secure full details concerning citations issued should contact the bus company for further clarification in an attempt to resolve any disagreements.

- If disagreements arise between parents and the bus company regarding any citation(s) for misconduct, either the parent or bus company officials may refer the issue to the appropriate school principal who will investigate and make every effort to resolve the problem.
- Bus discipline problems that are not satisfactorily resolved after following the procedure outlined above, may be referred to the superintendent who will investigate and render a final decision.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 339.240](#)

[ORS 339.250](#)

[ORS 820.100 - 820.190](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050 to -0075](#)

[OAR 581-023-0040](#)

[OAR 581-053-0002](#)

[OAR 581-053-0010](#)

Letter Opinion, Office of the OR Attorney General (Nov. 22, 1988).