

Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation: Student Behavior

The Superintendent will develop guidelines for student conduct and general responsibilities for bus drivers, teachers and administrators involved with school transportation.

A student who violates the regulations for student behavior on school buses may be subject to suspension or expulsion from school and/or transportation according to the provisions of Policy 5114 - Suspension and Expulsion.

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-220 Duties of boards of education

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures

10-233a Definitions

10-233b Removal of pupils from class

10-233c Suspension of pupils

4-177 through 4-180 re: contested cases.

Policy adopted: March 4, 1997

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REDDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9

Non-Instructional Operations

Student Transportation Rules

Student behavior waiting for school buses in the morning, riding on buses, and evacuating the bus in the afternoon is of continuing concern because of the potential for injury to children caused by inappropriate behavior. School personnel and bus drivers will periodically review bus behavior with children in classrooms, at assemblies, and on buses; parents are also asked to discuss proper behavior in these situations with their children. The following regulations have been developed for students waiting for school buses and boarding them in the morning, on the buses at anytime, and on the way home after leaving the buses in the afternoon.

Waiting for School Buses and Boarding

Children should be at the bus stops at least five (5) minutes before time in the mornings and should start out early enough so that running to catch the bus is unnecessary. While at the bus stop, children should stand and be in full view of the driver, not running into or playing in the streets. Children should not push, shove, fight, or engage in other disorderly behavior. Private property in the area of all bus stops must be respected. As the school bus approaches, children should form a line and wait until the bus comes to a full stop before boarding. Unless special seats are assigned by their principal, students should sit in the nearest available seat upon entering and move toward the window so that other students can also find seats. Although principals will help to the extent possible, children's behavior at the bus stops is really a parental responsibility. The school assumes responsibility from the time children board the bus until they leave the bus in the afternoon.

Riding on the Bus

The bus driver is fully occupied driving the bus safely and being alert to traffic, pedestrians, and other hazards. It is, therefore, particularly important that children abide by common sense rules of safety and courtesy. For example, the following are unacceptable and prohibited behaviors:

1. Discourtesy or disobedience to the bus driver.
2. Linger in the aisles when boarding the bus.
3. Changing seats.
4. Standing up before the bus comes to a full stop.
5. Kneeling or standing in the seats.
6. Interfering with a free flow of traffic down the bus aisle.
7. Fighting, shouting, throwing objects, or other disorderly actions.
8. Blocking or manipulating the emergency door.

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Student Transportation Rules (continued)

Riding on the Bus (continued)

9. Leaning out of windows or extending arms and hands or objects outside of the windows.
10. Bringing pets on the bus.
11. Smoking, eating or drinking on the bus.
12. Damaging or littering the bus.
13. Using vulgar or profane language.

Leaving the Bus and Returning Home

Once children leave the bus, they should go directly home and be alert for traffic hazards while walking on the roads.

Responsibilities Regarding School Buses

Bus Driver Obligations

1. No smoking on the bus or on school grounds. No smoking in front of students at any time.
2. Be in the driver's seat and remain there while students are on the bus and while students are loading or unloading and shall not leave the bus while the motor is running.
3. Check passes of students regularly if required. Make sure that students board or leave a bus only when it is stopped.
4. Report serious behavior or safety incidents, to the bus company and to school administrators. At the request of the administration, the report must be in writing.
5. Check the bus for vandalism after every run and report all damage immediately.
6. Drivers shall not operate a vehicle carrying school children in excess of its rated capacity.

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Student Transportation Rules (continued)

Administrator Obligations

1. Enforce all regulations of the Board of Education.
2. Board buses to warn students that a problem has occurred when no specific student can be identified. Warn students that if disturbance continues, seats will be assigned for the remainder of the year. Notify parents of this possibility, and send a copy of this notification to the Superintendent. Once seats have to be assigned, parents should also be notified. Failure to sit in assigned seats should be treated as a violation of student conduct rules.
3. Report all vandalism to the Central Office so that students and parents can be billed for damages.

Student Obligations

1. Follow all rules and regulations concerning bus transportation and safety.
2. Remain seated and wear seat belts (when provided) while the bus is in motion.
3. No smoking on the bus.
4. Do not harass the bus driver or other students.
5. Use the emergency door only when there is really an emergency. Use of this door at other times will result in referral to authorities and will also subject you to school discipline rules.
6. Do not do any damage to the bus or any other property. When a student is identified by the driver as doing any vandalism, the student and parents will be responsible for paying for repairs.