PRINCETON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Transportation Expectations and Consequences
Revised: July 2023

Our goal is to provide safe transportation and a positive experience for all students. Transportation to and from school by bus is a privilege, not a right. This privilege can be suspended or terminated. Students are expected to follow the same behavior expectations while riding school buses, or at the bus stop, as those on school property, at school activities, functions, or events. All school rules are in effect while a student is riding the bus or at the bus stop. Consequences for inappropriate behavior on the school bus and at the bus stop will be reported to, and handled by, school administration or designee. Illegal conduct will be reported to law enforcement.

School Bus and Bus Stop Expectations
The district school bus expectations will be posted on every bus and reviewed with students at each school. Students who violate expectations on school transportation or at designated bus stops will receive a bus referral, and consequences will follow. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges.

- Arrive at your bus stop five minutes prior to scheduled pick up time.
- Wait for the bus driver's signal. Cross 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Get on and off only at designated stop or school.
- Respect the bus driver and monitor by following directions.
- Respect other students and their personal belongings.
- Use respectful language and appropriate voice level.
- Stay seated in the assigned area or seat at all times.
- Keep all parts of your body, and all possessions, inside of the bus.
- Eating or drinking are allowed at the discretion of the bus driver.
- Keep the bus clean and litter-free. Throwing any items on the bus is prohibited and unsafe.
- Large items are not allowed on the bus without permission from the driver.
- Respect the school bus and equipment. Students will be responsible for the cost of damages to property. Bus riding privileges may be withheld until an acceptable plan of restitution is made.
- Physical contact on the bus is unsafe and unacceptable. This includes pushing, hitting, kicking, horseplay, intimidation, and fighting.
- The use and/or possession of illegal substances, or related items, is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the use or possession of alcohol, drugs and drug paraphernalia, lighters, tobacco, vaping or e-cigarettes products, weapons or look-alike weapons.

Students who do not follow the bus stop and/or bus expectations may lose their bus riding privileges for a period of time. Students are still required to attend school when they are suspended from school transportation. Parent(s) are then responsible for transportation to and from school. Transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right, for an eligible student. (Minnesota Statutes, Sec. 4 (123.801).

Guidelines and Consequences for Not Following Bus/Bus Stop Expectations
We expect all students to follow the expectations on school transportation and display positive and safe behaviors. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. Consequences for school bus and/or bus stop misconduct will apply to field trips, activities, and regular or late routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extra-curricular events (field trips, competitions, and activities) will be at the sole discretion of the school district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any bus suspension or loss of riding privileges and are responsible for the student's transportation during the suspension. Consequences for the school bus and bus stop will be reported to and handled by school administration or designee.

Minor Incidents: Disrespectful behavior, minor physical contact or horseplay, taking personal items from others, name

calling, not following directions, littering, excessive noise level, leaving seat, inappropriate language or gestures, inappropriate use of cell phone or technology, arguing, disobedience towards driver or monitor, other incidents reported and deemed inappropriate.

Major Incidents: Major physical aggression (fighting, kicking, punching, etc), profanity and abusive language directed at driver, monitor, or another student, sexual or racial language, damage or theft of property, intimidating or threatening behavior, insubordination toward driver or monitor, possession or use of illegal substances or related items (tobacco, drugs, e-cigs, weapons), throwing items out of the bus, throwing items at other students.

Definitions/Examples:

Note: these are possibilities but are not an all inclusive list

Education: Re-teaching bus expectations, counselor referral, conference with student, individual plan, role playing, reading replacement behavior stories, apology, etc.

Restitution: monetary fines, cleaning the bus, fixing the problem, etc.

In School Consequences: lunch detention, loss of recess, loss of preferred activity, in school suspension etc

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) Plan: An individualized student plan where the expected bus behaviors are reinforced in collaboration with the driver and school representative.

Bus Suspension: Student is responsible for attending school. Parent/Guardian is responsible for transportation to and from school.

Special Transportation: If a student has an IEP, Palmer and administration will determine disciplinary actions depending on the incident and number of incidents.

Early Childhood, Primary and Intermediate Elementary: Response to Bus Referrals	
	Depending on the incident #, the following consequences may be given out at the school level:
Minors	Education, parent contact, written warning, restitution, meeting with transportation staff, assigned seat, in-school consequences, parent meeting, potential bus suspension
Majors	Education, parent contact, written warning and in-school consequence, assigned seat Restitution, meeting with transportation staff, parent meeting, bus suspension, possible loss of bus service

Secondary: Middle and High School: Response to Bus Referrals	
	Depending on the incident #, the following consequences may be given out at the school level:
Minors	Education, parent contact, written warning, restitution, meeting with transportation staff, assigned seat, in-school consequences, parent meeting, potential bus suspension
Majors	Education, parent contact, written warning, in-school consequence, assigned seat, restitution, meeting with transportation staff, parent meeting, bus suspension, possible loss of bus service

*The principal or other designated administrator may impose other consequences, longer bus suspensions, and/or other school discipline as deemed appropriate on a case by case basis. Driver has the authority to assign seats at any time.