

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

There are few places in which proper student behavior is as closely related to safety as on the school bus. The Windham School Committee will not tolerate inappropriate student behavior on the school buses. Transportation to and from school is part of the school day, and all of the rules governing student behavior are in force. The issue of safety requires the students to be on their best behavior while on school buses.

Students, parents/guardians, and school employees should understand that rules are to be consistently enforced and obeyed.

Such misbehavior as rudeness, pushing, fighting, throwing objects, obscenity, and other offenses may result in the termination of transportation services. The School Department may request that parents accompany a disobedient youngster on the school bus if necessary to guarantee good behavior.

STUDENT CONDUCT REGULATIONS

- A. The rights of students to ride on the bus is conditional on their behavior and the observance of rules and regulations.
- B. Pupils shall be ready in the morning at the designated "School Bus Stop." Buses are not permitted to wait for tardy students.
- C. The driver is in full charge of the bus and the pupils. Pupils will obey the directions of the driver.
- D. The driver may assign seats on the bus.
- E. When the bus is in motion, pupils are not to stand, move about, leave or enter the bus, or extend arms or head out of the bus.
- F. Nothing shall be thrown from or within the bus.
- G. Any damage done to the bus or any part of it shall be paid for by the parents/guardians of the student(s) involved.
- H. Students may talk provided that the conversation is appropriate and that the noise level allows the driver's instructions to be heard.
- I. All students shall be treated with respect and shall treat others with respect.
- J. Only plastic roll up sleds in bags will be allowed.
- K. Pupils may only ride on their assigned bus. In emergency situations, when different arrangements must be made, a note of parental permission must be approved by the building office staff. All exceptions to this stipulation shall be on a space-available basis.
- L. If students must cross the highway, they must do so in front of the bus at the direction of the driver.
- M. Food may not be consumed on the bus.
- N. The leaving of any refuse on the vehicle is prohibited.
- O. No live animals may be transported by school buses.
- P. All pupils shall be assigned to a consistent bus stop for transportation to and from school. Parents/guardians will be required to notify the school department at the beginning of the school year if a child is to be transported to or from a babysitter. Parents/guardians will be allowed to have their children transported from one stop and returned to another. However, this must be consistent for the entire year. The morning and afternoon route must be identical each day.
NOTE: exceptions to the conditions stated in letter P above may be made only on Wednesday afternoons and only for grades 1-5.
 - a. The stop must be consistent every Wednesday, for child care only. (Brownies, Cub Scout meetings, etc., do not qualify).
 - b. Parents/guardians must try to make child care arrangements on the same bus route as the child normally rides on, if at all possible; bus changes will be made only if space is available.
 - c. Parents/guardians must notify the bus garage and the school of any change for Wednesday afternoon
- Q. In all instances of termination of services, the Superintendent will be advised and informed.

The following will be observed in dealing with infractions of bus regulations:

Grades 6 – 12 School Bus Referral. Parent will be notified of each infraction.

Referral Slip # 1 / 2

On the first two occasions of an infraction, the driver will turn in the name of the student on a completed bus disciplinary form. The principal or assistant principal will call the parent and meet with the student, discuss the incident and assign a consequence to fit the behavior. Consequences may include detention, assigned seat on the bus, or suspension from the bus for a specific period of time.

Referral Slip # 3

Upon the receipt of bus disciplinary form # 3, the principal or assistant principal will call the parent and meet with the student. The student will be suspended from the bus for three to five days (3 – 5). The parent and student will be warned that a subsequent infraction will result in suspension from the bus for the rest of the year.

Referral Slip # 4

Upon receipt of bus disciplinary form # 4, the principal or assistant principal, after notifying the parent and the Superintendent, will meet with the student who will be suspended from the bus for the rest of the year.