

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 05/22/2006

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 06/26/06

Approved: 07/24/06

## **709.1 SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

It is the goal of I.S.D. #716 and Stier Bus Company to provide safe and efficient transportation for the eligible students of the district. Both to and from school and for other related activities, riding the bus is a privilege. We consider proper behavior on the school bus to be as important as proper behavior in the classroom. We believe that rider misbehavior sidetracks us from achieving this goal. As such, we support the majority who behave by firm and fair enforcement of these rules for all.

### **II. BEHAVIOR STANDARDS FOR BUS RIDERS**

- A. All students who have the opportunity to ride school buses may do so as long as they display behavior that is reasonable and safe. Choosing to follow unacceptable behavior that will result in loss of riding privileges. Students are only to ride the bus they are assigned, unless other arrangements have been made with Stier Transportation Services, Co.
- B. The bus driver is in full charge of the bus and riders at all time. Students are responsible to the driver while riding the bus the same as they are responsible to teachers while in attendance at school.
- C. It is dangerous for students to move about the bus while in motion.
- D. Any distractions of the driver's attention to remind the student of some regulation or to answer unnecessary question jeopardizes the safety of every student on the bus.
- E. Students have a responsibility to keep the bus clean. They should do their part to keep the floor clear of wastepaper and dirt and to keep the upholstery and interior finish of the bus in excellent condition.

### **III. LOADING:**

When students cross the road to be picked up, they should take extra caution in watching approaching vehicles.

### **IV. UNLOADING:**

At all discharge points where it is necessary for students to cross the road, the student should cross at least ten (10) feet in front of the bus and again take extra caution in watching approaching vehicles.

### **V. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE:**

The use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, profane, abusive or sexually explicit language, or any inappropriate touch while riding the bus will deny the student riding privileges.

### **VI. DAMAGE:**

Any damage done to the bus should be reported to the driver as soon as it happens.

### **VII. BEHAVIOR CONSEQUENCES FOR BUS RIDER:**

1. The building principal and/or a representative from Stier Transportation Services, Co. shall be responsible to determine consequences for misbehaving including suspension or termination of riding privilege.
2. The first report of an incident involving a student's misbehavior on or near a bus will be sent to the parent(s)/guardian(s) (and a phone call), and principal stating the violation and the consequence, deemed as a warning.
3. The second report of a student's misbehavior on or near the bus may result in a loss of riding privileges up to 5 days. Prior to any loss of riding privilege, the principal will have agreed to the loss of the riding privilege and have confirmed that the parent(s)/guardian(s) has been adequately notified. This violation may result in a meeting with the principal, parent(s)/guardian(s) and bus owner. If the principal, parent(s)/guardian(s) or bus owner request the bus driver may also be

present. Notification of consequence will be made by a phone call and confirmed in writing.

4. Any future reports on a particular student during one school year will lead to the denial of riding privilege for longer periods on and including the balance of the school year.
5. In the event of a grossly flagrant violation (i.e. physical abuse, sexual abuse, bringing flammable material on the bus, etc.) it may become necessary to deny riding privileges at the time of the first violation. Any acts which may be construed as criminal shall be referred to the local police or sheriff's department. NOTE: Consequences 3-5 result in the parent(s) and/ or legal guardian(s) being responsible for transportation to and from school.
6. For incidents involving damage to a bus, such as broken windows, damage to seats, writing on seats, etc. the student(s) and parent(s) involved will pay for the cost of such damage.
7. Based on the severity of a student's misconduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school may also result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.
8. Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct will be provided to the Department of Public Safety. Records may also be maintained in the transportation office.

## **VIII. RURAL TRANSPORTATION**

Busses will pick up and discharge students at points and times designated by the bus operator. K-12 students will be transported if they live one mile or more from school. If the entry to the home driveway is 3/10th mile or more from the bus route and on a good road, the bus will go to the end of the driveway to pick up the students. The board may waive the 3/10th of a mile requirement if conditions jeopardize the safety of either the student(s) or bus.

The districts bus contractor is annually responsible for establishing safe and cost effective bus routes contingent upon approval by the districts student transportation safety director and the School Board.