



School Bus Prohibited Objects & Discipline Policy

Spring Lake Park School #16
Transportation Department
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Dear Parents:

The following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Spring Lake Park School District #16. It is hoped that these guidelines will help us to provide safe transportation to and from school for your student. Students should be at the bus stop five minutes prior to the scheduled time. As per MN. Statute 123B.90 "Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right." Students who pay for bus service are not exempt from this statute and must follow the bus rules or receive the consequences outlined in this policy.

BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY

Students who have the opportunity to ride district school buses may do so as long as they display behavior that is reasonable and safe. Choosing to engage in unacceptable behavior will result in loss of bus service. The bus driver is responsible for the safety and discipline of students on the bus. The building principal is available to give assistance to the driver and will determine the consequences of misbehavior and the reinstatement of bus service for the offending student(s) should a suspension become necessary. A suspension applies to all buses unless otherwise designated by school officials. The responsibility for student supervision by the District shall begin when the student boards the bus in the morning and is retained until the child leaves the bus at the end of the day; or until released to the parent/guardian in a manner consistent with guidelines on release of students.

Please see the reverse side of this brochure for a list of Offenses and Consequences.

VANDALISM/BUS DAMAGE

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for those damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of privileges until damages are paid.

CRIMINAL CONDUCT

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, possession, or vandalism), the Superintendent, local law enforcement officials and the Department of Public Safety will be informed.

OTHER DISCIPLINE

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, 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 misconduct.

TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL RELATED/ NONRELATED ITEMS

Under the Laws and Rules for the Operation of School Buses in the State of Minnesota, it is stated: ". . . no materials, including: guns, loaded or unloaded; gasoline cans, empty or full; animals or any other object of dangerous or objectionable nature are transported in the school bus when children are being transported." Cell phone use on the bus is prohibited. Band instruments that will be allowed on the bus are those that are small enough to be held on the student's lap. Instruments may not be in the aisle or take the space of a student. Hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks, golf clubs, sleds or any other unacceptable recreational equipment will not be allowed on regular buses. Ice skates, skate shoes, skate boards, roller blades and bats will not be allowed on the bus unless enclosed in an athletic-type canvas bag or are otherwise inaccessible. Damage to personal items is not covered under the bus contractor's/district's insurance coverage.

For more information on items not allowed on the buses, please see our "Prohibited Objects for School Buses List" on the reverse side of this brochure.

ASSIGNED BUSES ONLY

Students are assigned to buses and bus stops. No change in either bus or stop is permitted without transportation dept. authorization. Temporary changes may be made by school administrators for authorized emergencies only. Failure to ride the assigned bus from the assigned bus stop may jeopardize the safety of students and may result in disciplinary action.

Please reference our other brochures:

- SLP District #16 School Bus Rules & Safety
- SLP District #16 School Bus Policies & Procedures

DISCIPLINE PROCESS

Student Conduct reports are used by bus drivers to inform school staff and parents/guardians of disciplinary incidents involving their children on the school bus. Conduct reports are written only after the driver attempts to eliminate the problems him or herself. If the driver feels the student's conduct was severe, a report is written immediately.

These reports are collected by the school offices and dealt with in a timely fashion. The schools will often mail the report home so the parents are aware of any ongoing misconduct. Consequences for school bus misconduct will be in the **sole discretion** of the administration of the child's school. Riding privileges can be suspended or revoked due to excessive or repeated violations of rider-ship rules. Parents or guardians will be immediately notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

The school buses are extensions of the school day. School Bus consequences may be superseded by District #16 policy. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats at any time. The sexual/racial/ religious harassment policy, the weapons policy, and bullying policy of District #16 will be strictly enforced on the school bus.

Video cameras may be used on school buses at any time.

The following is a list of consequences **generally** used, but the school's administration may jump steps if they deem appropriate. We have also included examples of school bus offenses.

CONSEQUENCES

- 1st Offense: Warning with a copy of the report sent home to parent or guardian.
- 2nd Offense: Student will be placed on probation and the parent/ guardian will be notified that further infractions will result in loss of ridership privileges.
- 3rd Offense: Student will be suspended from the bus for 3 days.
- 4th Offense: Student will be suspended from the bus for 5 days.
- 5th Offense: Student will be suspended from the bus for 10 days.
- 6th Offense: Meeting with parent/guardian. Possible loss of bus ridership privileges for the remainder of the school year.

EXAMPLES OF OFFENSES

1. Spitting
2. Excessive noise
3. Horseplay/mischief/distracting behavior
4. Eating/drinking/littering on bus
5. Leaving seat/standing without permission from driver
6. Use of liquid containers in any form
7. Profanity, verbal abuse, harassment, obscene gestures or possession of unacceptable material
8. False identification/refusal to identify oneself
9. Riding unassigned bus or using unassigned bus stop.
10. Opening window past safety line
11. Riding or attempting to ride any bus during a bus suspension
12. Disobedient to the driver/para-educator/bus patrol
13. Cell phone use, including photos and videos
14. Hanging out of windows
15. Throwing/shooting of any object
16. Bullying and/or physical aggression against any person
17. Profanity/threats directed toward bus driver/para-educator
18. Possession/use of tobacco or any controlled substance
19. Vandalism to bus
20. Holding onto or attempting to hold onto any portion of the exterior of the bus or any "Danger Zone" infringement.
21. Lighting of matches, lighters or any flammable object or substance
22. Unauthorized entering or leaving bus through emergency door/tampering with bus equipment
23. Possession or threat of weapons/explosives/flammables
24. Possession/use of laser pens or pointers.
25. Other offenses as reported by the driver or principal

Prohibited Objects on School Buses



If an item can be safely carried in a bag and on a student's lap, without interfering with the space of another passenger, it will be accepted.

Certain items listed here will **NEVER** be accepted.

Any items not on this list that are of dangerous or objectionable nature will not be permitted and will be determined by the Transportation Department or Bus Company at any time.

INSTRUMENTS

- Drums
- French Horn
- Guitars
- Tuba

WEAPONS

- Archery Equipment
- Guns (loaded or unloaded)
- Toy Guns
- Knives
- Metal Knuckles
- Num-Chucks
- Tear Gas
- Throwing Stars

SPORTING EQUIP.

- Balls-any type (unless in a bag)
- Bat not in a bat bag
- Fishing Poles
- Golf Clubs
- Skateboards
- Skates not in a bag
- Skis/Ski Poles
- Sleds
- Snowboards
- Tennis Rackets (unless in a bag)
- Lacrosse Sticks
- Hockey Sticks & Equip.
- Rakes & Shovels

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

- Alcohol
- Cigarettes
- Drugs

FLAMMABLE OBJECTS

- Aerosols
- Ammunition
- Explosives
- Fireworks
- Gas Cans
- Gasoline/Diesel
- Lighter Fluid
- Lighters
- Matches
- Spray Paint

SCHOOL PROJECTS

- Fundraisers
- Live or Dead Animals (mice, rats, snakes, cats, dogs, insects, fish, etc.)
- Shop Projects (tables, gun racks, shelves, etc.)
- Small Engines

OTHERS

- Glass breakable objects
- Laser Pens
- Luggage
- Balloons