



STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Bus transportation to and from school is a privilege for all pupils. ~~All students of the Lincoln Schools are eligible for transport, regardless of the distance of their home from the school. Parents, however, should not expect buses to operate over roads that are not properly maintained, on private lanes, or on roads where inadequate turn-around situations exist. Cluster pick-ups will be used where safety permits.~~

~~Parents are reminded of their responsibility for actions of their children while on school buses, including physical damage to the bus.~~

~~The bus driver is charged with the responsibility of enforcing all regulations governing the conduct of pupils on his/her bus and shall report major infractions to the principals. The bus driver is to be accorded the same respect, and will demand the same decorum, as do teachers in the classroom.~~

The bus shall be considered an extension of the school and students should conduct themselves while on the bus in a manner consistent with the Code of Conduct (JICDA). Students are expected to comply with the requests of the bus driver at all times. The driver has the authority and responsibility to maintain orderly behavior of students on the bus.

The school principal will handle all discipline and may deprive pupils of bus riding privileges for a reasonable length of time if rules are violated. ~~In such cases, it shall become the responsibility of the parents of the students involved to see that their students get to and from school safely and on time. In addition to being suspended from the bus, students are subject to discipline up to and including expulsion for serious misconduct on school buses. In all cases~~ When a riding privilege is removed, a report must be made by the principal to the parents and the Superintendent of Schools. ~~parents of a student being suspended from the bus will be notified by telephone and receive written notice indicating the reason for suspension, the dates of the suspension, and the date for a reentry meeting and return to school.~~

~~Parents are responsible for their child's safety until their child boards the bus and immediately after their child disembarks from the bus after school.~~

*Adopted at School Committee Meeting of January 26, 1981
Reaffirmed at School Committee Meeting of September 28, 1981
Revised at School Committee Meeting of January 21, 1985
Revised at School Committee Meeting of _____*



BUS SAFETY RULES

WAITING FOR THE BUS:

On the way to school:

- Arrive early enough at the bus stop to avoid running across the street to catch an approaching bus.
- Wait on the sidewalk, in a driveway, or any safe area off the road.
- Be alert as you wait for your bus. No roughhousing with other children or playing with balls or other toys that could distract you.
- If an object drops into the street, **LEAVE IT**, no matter how valuable or important it is. It can be replaced – YOU can not.

BOARDING THE BUS:

- Wait until the bus comes to a full stop before moving toward it.
- Enter the bus single file, without pushing or crowding.
- Go directly to a seat and sit down immediately. (Do not save seats.)
- Remember that seats are to be shared. School bus seats can hold from two to three children. Each child should take up only one place.

WHILE ON THE BUS:

- Listen to and follow the driver's instruction at all times.
- Act courteously. Be thoughtful of younger students.
- No play-fighting, teasing, pushing, hitting, fighting, swearing or throwing objects allowed on the bus. Everyone is asked to keep their hands to themselves and treat one another with respect.
- Stay seated while the bus is moving. Seatbelts are recommended. Do not kneel or stand on seats. Climbing over/under seats is prohibited.
- Stay in the same seat until you reach your destination. No switching.
- The aisle must be kept clear. No feet, book bags, or equipment can be in the aisle or on a seat. Unless items can be held on your lap, or stored under your seat, they cannot be transported on the school bus.
- Talk quietly. Do not yell or use abusive language.
- Do not distract the driver. He/she has an important job to do.
- Keep hands, heads, and arms inside the bus. Never throw objects out a window.
- Never damage the bus in any way. Destroying property will be dealt with severely. Also, remember not to litter. Help keep your bus clean.
- Do not eat or drink while on the school bus.

LEAVING THE BUS AT SCHOOL:

- Stand up **ONLY** when the bus comes to a full stop.
- Leave the bus in an orderly manner.
- Students are to go directly to their classrooms.
- If an object drops into the street, **LEAVE IT**, no matter how valuable or important it is. It can be replaced – YOU can not.

BUS USAGE:

- Students may only ride the bus to which they have been assigned.
- METCO/Boston children may ride Lincoln School buses with parental notes from both families, authorizing the visit to a Lincoln host family. School secretaries will provide visiting students a day pass.
- Drivers are authorized to assign children to seats, if necessary.
- The Principal will work closely with bus drivers and parents to assure that Bus Safety and Conduct Rules are carefully monitored.

Students who violate these rules will be referred to their Principal and parents will be notified. Serious or repeated infractions can result in the loss of a child's privilege to ride a school bus. Responsibility for transporting children to school, in these cases, will shift from the school to the parent or guardian.