

**School District of  
Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan  
BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY**

**BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES AND CONSEQUENCES**

Students are responsible for their behavior on the bus and their behavior could affect the safe operation of the bus. Misbehavior could result in the bus driver being distracted. Such distractions could endanger the lives of all students being transported. Therefore, behavior infractions must be reported and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with these guidelines.

Parents are requested to explain the importance of proper behavior on the bus. They are also expected to support disciplinary actions that are necessary to help their child change his/her behavior.

The primary responsibility of the driver is to safely transport the students to and from school. While transporting students, the driver also has the responsibility of maintaining discipline on the bus. Therefore, the driver will report behavior infractions to the proper authority on the forms provided.

The following behaviors will not be permitted on the bus. The behaviors are grouped according to the seriousness of the offense. More serious misbehaviors will result in harsher consequences. The behavior consequences will escalate if the child insists on repeating the unacceptable behavior.

**UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR \***

**MINOR INFRACTIONS**

- Hitting
- Spitting
- Profanity
- Out of seat
- Throwing objects
- Obstructing aisles
- Making loud noises
- Hanging out windows

**MAJOR INFRACTIONS**

- Assault
- Fighting
- Vandalism
- Insubordination
- Possession of a weapon
- Possession or use of tobacco
- Possession or use of alcohol

**MINIMUM CONSEQUENCES FOR MINOR INFRACTIONS**

**MINOR - FIRST OFFENSE:** Driver conferences with the student, identifies the infraction and writes the behavior referral with copies to the parent/parents and appropriate administrator.

**MINOR - SECOND OFFENSE:** Driver conferences with the student, identifies the infraction, and writes the behavior referral with copies to the parent/parents and appropriate administrator. The parent copy of the referral must be signed by the parent/parents and presented to the driver by the student before he/she can ride the bus the next day.

**MINOR - THIRD OFFENSE:** Driver conferences with the student, identifies the infraction, and writes the behavior referral with copies to the parent/parents and the appropriate administrator. The appropriate administrator contacts the parent/parents, reviews the child's behavioral record and suspends the riding privileges from three to five days. All succeeding offenses in the minor category will be treated as a MAJOR INFRACTION--FIRST OFFENSE, SECOND OFFENSE & THIRD OFFENSE.

**MINIMUM CONSEQUENCES FOR MAJOR INFRACTIONS**

**MAJOR - FIRST OFFENSE:** Driver conferences with the student, identifies the infraction, and writes the behavior referral with copies to the parent/parents and the appropriate administrator. The appropriate administrator contacts the parent/parents, reviews the behavior incident, and suspends the student's riding privileges for five days. The parent/parents and student must attend a conference with the appropriate administrator and driver before the riding privileges are reinstated.

**MAJOR - SECOND OFFENSE:** The same procedure will be followed as outlined in the first offense. However, the riding privileges will be suspended from ten to fifteen days.

MAJOR - THIRD OFFENSE: The same procedure will be followed as outlined in the first offense. However, the riding privileges will be suspended for fifteen days. Any succeeding offenses will result in immediate suspension of riding privileges and the case will be presented to the school board with a request for action by the school board.

**EVENING ROUTE - DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR CLAUSE**

If a student performs an act that obviously jeopardizes the safe operation of the bus or endangers the safety of others on the evening route, the driver may suspend the student from riding the bus the next morning. The driver must notify the parent/parents and the appropriate administrator of this action upon completion of the evening route. A written report shall also be filled out and delivered to the appropriate administrator immediately following the next morning's route detailing the incident. Riding privileges can not be reinstated until a conference is held with the driver, parent/parents, student, and appropriate administrator.

NOTE: IF THE INFRACTION IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW THE PROPER AUTHORITIES WILL BE NOTIFIED. IF THE INFRACTION RESULTS IN PROPERTY DAMAGE RESTITUTION MUST BE PAID OR A PLAN FOR RESTITUTION MUST BE AGREED UPON BEFORE RIDING PRIVILEGES ARE REINSTATED.

Policy adopted October 20, 1986