

I. PURPOSE

The transportation of students to and from NWSISD programs and activities is an important function of NWSISD and its member school districts, and this transportation is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student. The behavior of students on the bus is a significant factor in the safety and efficiency of school bus transportation. Student misbehavior increases the potential risks of injury. Therefore, NWSISD and its member school districts believe that videotaping student passengers on the school bus will encourage good behavior and, as a result, promote safety. The purpose of this policy is to establish a school bus videotaping system for NWSISD.

NWSISD member school districts are responsible for developing their own policies regarding videotaping on school buses. NWSISD member school districts' policies shall supersede NWSISD's policy when NWSISD member school districts are providing the transportation to NWSISD programs or activities.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Placement.

1. Each and every school bus owned, leased, contracted and/or operated by NWSISD shall be equipped with a fully-enclosed box for placement and operation of a video camera and conspicuously placed signs notifying riders that their conversations or actions may be recorded on tape.
2. A video camera will not necessarily be installed in each and every school bus owned, leased, contracted and/or operated by NWSISD, but cameras may be rotated from bus to bus without prior notice to students.
3. Video cameras will be placed on a particular school bus, to the extent possible, where NWSISD or its member school districts have received complaints of inappropriate behavior.

B. Use of Videotape.

1. A videotape of the actions of student passengers may be used by NWSISD or a student's home school district as evidence in any disciplinary action brought against any student, arising out of the student's conduct on the bus.
2. A videotape will be released to the public only in conformance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13

and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g and the rules and/or regulations promulgated there under.

3. Videotapes will be viewed by NWSISD's or its member school districts' staff on a random basis and/or when discipline problems on the bus have been brought to the attention of either NWSISD or its member school districts.
4. A videotape will be retained by NWSISD or its member school districts for a period of six (6) weeks, or until the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings in which the video tape is used for evidence.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.585 (Notice of Recording Device)
Minn. Rules Pts. 1205.0100-1205.2000.
20 U.S.C. §1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
34 C.F.R. Secs. 99.1-99.67

Cross References: NWSISD Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
NWSISD Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
NWSISD Policy 709 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)
MSBA/MASA Service Manual, Chapter 10, Transportation

Adopted: April 16, 2003