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Southern Minnesota Education Consortium

**SMEC**

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

To ensure the safety of students, transportation employees and other motorists, students are required to abide by all student behavior outlines in board policy and reviewed in this handbook, and by the additional transportation safety rules reviewed in the following chart. In addition, while riding in a District vehicle or school bus, in accordance with state law students shall not transport gasoline, animals, or any other dangerous or objectionable objects, except for animals specifically trained to assist people who are blind, or have other disabilities. Students who violate these or other District policies and regulations while riding in a District vehicle, school bus, or at a school bus stop will be disciplined.

The bus driver is responsible for maintaining appropriate student behavior on the bus and is authorized to assign students to specific seats. The driver will report students who violate the rules to the student’s principal.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Become familiar with district rules, policies, regulations, and principals of school bus safety.

2. Assist students in understanding safety rules and encourage them to abide by them.

3. Recognize their responsibilities for the actions of their students.

4. Support safe riding practices and reasonable discipline efforts.

5. When appropriate, assist students in safely crossing local streets before boarding and after leaving the bus.

6. Communicate safety concerns to school administrators.

7. Monitor bus stops, if possible.

8. Support all efforts to improve school bus safety.

If a student’s transportation privileges are denied because of the student’s misbehavior, the student’s parent(s) or Guardian(s) will be responsible for transporting the student to and from school. (Student behavior policies will be adjusted, as required by federal and state laws and regulations, for special education students who have individual education plans (IEPs). Video cameras are used on some school buses, and students may be videotaped. The use of video cameras is intended to decrease student misbehavior and allow safe bus operation for students, drivers and other motorists. Records of school bus misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manners other school discipline records. Serious misconduct reports will be sent to the Department of Public Safety. Students are expected to not engage in the following activities in District vehicles:

*Minnesota Statue 121A.59 states: “Transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right, for an eligible student. A student’s eligibility to ride a school bus may be revoked for a violation of school bus safety or conduct policies, or for violation of any other law governing student conduct on a school bus, pursuant to a written school District discipline policy. Revocation of a student’s bus riding privilege is not an exclusion, expulsion, or suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Revocation procedures for a student who is an individual with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, United States Code, title 20, section 1400 et seq., section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, United States Code, title 29, section 794, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law Number 101-336, are governed by these provisions.”*

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