

September 2008

Transportation

Snohomish School
District Web site:
sno.wednet.edu

For Transportation
questions call

Dispatch Office
360-563-3525

School starts
Wednesday
September 3rd

Help Wanted:

**Substitute School Bus
Drivers needed!**

Please contact RSC for
information

360-563-7300

Snohomish School District Transportation 360-563-3525
Transportation supervisor: Dave Sutliff

Student Management on School Buses

Greetings!

During the spring and summer, a team comprising school administrators, human resource personnel, operation-transportation directors and bus drivers have been meeting to discuss ways to make our buses safer for students and drivers alike.

In the past, different schools had different interpretations for issuing bus conduct slips, often adding confusion and frustration for the students and drivers as to what is expected of one another. To address this issue the committee has outlined four basic expectations and a three-step action plan for handling the relatively few occasions where students behave in an unsafe manner or treat others with disrespect. These rules will help ensure that infractions that occur on the bus are handled fairly and consistently.

School Bus Expectations:

- This is a safe bus
- Respect yourself, others and property
- Remain safely seated and quiet
- Follow driver instructions promptly

As we progress through the school year our team will continue to review the program. Your comments are greatly appreciated to help streamline the student conduct process.

We would like for parents and guardians to review the student conduct plan with your children who ride the bus. Each driver will also take time on the first day of school to review our expectations of the students, and these expectations will be displayed on each bus as a reminder.

Please know that we are all on the same team and we have the same goal: **To transport students safely to and from school.** We will work together with you to help our students make safe choices. Our team includes The Student, The Driver, The Parent and The Educational Staff at school. Working together helps our students achieve our goal. We hope that the School Bus Expectations together with the student conduct action plan helps the whole team to be successful.

SCHOOL BUS EXPECTATIONS

This is a safe bus. Being safe from danger and injury to protect and prevent risk.

- Board bus when the driver indicates that it is safe for you to do so. Always cross in front of the bus.
- Students are to ride only their regularly assigned bus and leave the bus at their regular stop. To ride another bus or get off at a different stop requires parent/guardian permission and authorization of the school.
- Walk when boarding or exiting the bus.
- When exiting the bus, step away into a safe zone.
- Keep hands, feet and objects inside the bus at all times.
- Aisles ways must be clear.
- Animals, firearms, weapons, or breakable items (containers, art projects, etc.) are prohibited.
- Students will be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before scheduled arrival time and be accountable for their action.

Respect yourself, others, and property.

Treat others as you would want to be treated. Take care of your things and the bus.

- Leave valuables at home.
- Be nice.
- Speak softly and appropriately
- Be kind and helpful.
- Keep your belongings in your space and in your control.
- Don't touch other people's belongings.
- Take care of the bus. Don't vandalize.

Remain safely seated and quiet.

- Seat to seat, back to back.
- Keep your feet on the floor in front of you.
- Keep the aisle clear.
- Refrain from obscene language or gestures.

Follow the driver's instructions promptly.

When asked to follow a direction, comply immediately.

- When the driver asks, "May I have your attention please," quietly give your full attention.
- Remain silent and wait to hear instructions or directions.

Three step plan of action to address student misconduct

Step One: Misconduct Warning – Level I or II infraction

Possible consequences:

- Verbal warning (may assign seat)
- Driver contacts parents by phone, e-mail, or both. (this may occur multiple times)
- Misconduct warning is issued. Copies are given to parents and administration officials.

Step Two: Citation- Repeated Level I or II infraction

Possible consequences:

- Driver explains likely repercussions
- Copies of citation sent to parents, administration officials, and transportation director.
- Possible suspension* of bus riding privileges.

Step Three: Citation – Level I or II continued infraction

2nd Citation (Level I or II):

- Driver explains likely repercussions
- Copies of citation sent to parents, administration officials, and transportation director
- Suspension* to loss of privilege to ride the bus.

Level III infraction:

- Driver explains likely repercussions
- Copies of citation sent to parents, administration officials, and transportation director
- Team meeting/parent conference.
- Suspension* to loss of privilege to ride the bus.

*Suspension is the removal of the student from bus riding privileges.

**Please see Misconduct Warning-Citation forms for definition of levels of offenses.