

RIVER ROAD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AMARILLO, TEXAS

Subject: Bus Discipline

Date: Monday, December 8, 2014

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Business Manager

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ACTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This fall, the Transportation Department and I have been working to develop a new set of discipline guidelines for students who ride our school buses. In my opinion, the old guidelines were too rigid, did not take into account the severity of the offense, removed students from the bus too quickly without having sufficient discussions with parents and students about how their actions impacted safety on the bus, and only utilized bus suspensions as a disciplinary option which resulted in students missing school - contrary to our educational mission.

Working with some of our drivers, we created the attached new guidelines. The new guidelines add a conference where the parents and students are to come in to discuss the incident and to view a video that emphasizes the possible negative ramifications of poor behavior on the bus. The new guidelines also look at the severity of the behavior when assigning consequences whereas the prior guidelines only increased the length of the bus suspension with each offense without regard to what the student actually did. Finally, the new guidelines allow discipline at the discretion of the school principal to be issued in lieu of or in addition to bus suspensions.

Behavior on many of our buses is a problem. We are discussing how we can bring an awareness to parents and students regarding how bad behavior can be a safety concern. We are also planning on providing better training for our drivers about how to better deal with disruptive student behavior.

PRESENTATION/PURPOSE:

To provide the Board with information about revised bus discipline guidelines which we would like to begin implementing in January.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Information item - No action required.

River Road ISD Steps to Student Consequences for Bus Rider Behavior

Safety is the primary concern during the transportation of our students. Parents and school personnel should work together in promoting responsible student behavior while riding the school bus.

The Transportation/Administration will determine if an offense is categorized as a major or minor offense according to the Students Code of Conduct and guidelines included in the Student Handbook. All reports will consider the severity of the offense and the student's age.

Minor Offenses

- Disrespectful behavior toward the driver, monitor, or other students
- Disruptive Behavior
- Horseplay/roughhousing
- Not sitting properly in a seat
- Standing while the bus is in motion
- Throwing object (in or out of the bus)
- Unacceptably loud language
- Verbal threats, bullying, or taunting
- Vulgar, profane, or obscene language/gestures

Major Offenses

- Fighting
- Possessing a weapon
- Possessing, using, or selling alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance, or tobacco of any kind
- Vandalism or damage to the bus

CONSEQUENCES FOR MINOR OFFENSES

First Report

Written warning from driver. A call to parents or guardian from bus driver or Transportation Director.

Second Report

Parent or guardian along with student make an appointment to come in and view safety video and discuss the report with the bus driver and the Transportation Director. If parent or guardian and the student fail to attend the meeting, the student will be suspended from riding the bus until the meeting is held.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Reports

Five, ten, or thirty (5/10/30) day suspensions from the bus depending on the severity of the infraction. Discipline may be issued at the discretion of the student's school principal or assistant principal in lieu of or in addition to a suspension from the bus. Call from Principal or Administration.

Sixth Report

Suspended from the bus for the remainder of the school year. Call from Administration

CONSEQUENCES FOR UNSAFE BEHAVIOR OR FOR MAJOR OFFENSES

***** TRANSPORTATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE A STUDENT ENGAGING IN UNSAFE BEHAVIOR OR A MAJOR OFFENSE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME DEEMED APPROPRIATE *****