

Approved: 10/10/2022

## 709 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY POLICY

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide safe transportation for Crosslake Community School's (CCS) students and to educate students on safety issues and the responsibilities of school bus ridership.

### II. PLAN FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING

#### A. School Bus Safety Week

CCS may designate a school bus safety week. The National School Bus Safety Week is the third week in October.

#### B. Student School Bus Safety Training

1. CCS shall provide students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:
  - a. transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
  - b. CCS' policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
  - c. appropriate conduct while on the bus;
  - d. the danger zones surrounding a school bus;
  - e. procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
  - f. procedures for safe vehicle lane crossing; and
  - g. school bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.
2. All students in grades K through 8 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training by the end of the third week of school. Students in grades K through 8 who enroll in a school after the second week of school, are transported by school bus, and have not received training in their previous charter schools shall undergo school bus safety training or receive bus safety instructional materials within two weeks of their first day of attendance.
3. The school district with students transported by school bus at public expense must provide students enrolled in grades K through 3 school bus safety training twice during the school year.
4. The charter school with students transported by school bus at public expense must conduct a school bus evacuation drill at least once during the school year.
5. The charter school will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.
6. The charter school may provide kindergarten students with school bus safety training before the first day of school.
7. The charter school may provide student safety education for bicycling and pedestrian safety for students in grades K through 5.
8. The charter school shall adopt and make available for public review a curriculum for transportation safety education.

#### C. Active Transportation Safety Training

1. Training required

- a. CCS must provide pupils enrolled in kindergarten through grade 3 with age-appropriate active transportation safety training. At a minimum, the training must include pedestrian safety, including crossing roads.
- b. CCS must provide pupils enrolled in grades 4 through 8 with age-appropriate active transportation safety training. At a minimum, the training must include:
  - (1) pedestrian safety, including crossing roads safely using the searching left, right, left for vehicles in traffic technique; and
  - (2) bicycle safety, including relevant traffic laws, use and proper fit of protective headgear, bicycle parts and safety features, and safe biking techniques and
  - (3) electric-assisted bicycle safety, including that a person under the age of 15 is not allowed to operate an electric-assisted bicycle.

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this provision.]

## 2. Deadlines.

- a. Students under subdivision 1, paragraph (a), who are enrolled during the first or second week of school and have not previously received active transportation safety training specified in that paragraph must receive the safety training by the end of the third week of school.
- b. Students under subdivision 1, paragraph (b), who are enrolled during the first or second week of school and have not previously received active transportation safety training specified in that paragraph must receive the safety training by the end of the sixth week of school.
- c. Students under subdivision 1, paragraph (a) or (b), who enroll in a school after the second week of school and have not received the appropriate active transportation safety training in their previous charter school must undergo the training or receive active transportation safety instructional materials within four weeks of the first day of attendance.
- d. CCS and a nonpublic school may provide kindergarten pupils with active transportation safety training before the first day of school.

## 3. Instruction

- a. CCS may provide active transportation safety training through distance learning.
- b. CCS and a nonpublic school must make reasonable accommodations for the active transportation safety training of pupils known to speak English as a second language and pupils with disabilities.

### III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR

- A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. CCS's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on CCS's buses.
- B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by CCS under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the lead bus driver and the school director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.
  1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules.  
CCS school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, CCS's

discipline procedures are to be followed. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privilege. It is the school bus driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to the school director.

2. Rules at the Bus Stop

- a. Get to your bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- b. Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
- c. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
- d. Use appropriate language.
- e. Stay away from the street, road or highway when waiting for the bus.
- f. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- g. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- h. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- i. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
- j. No use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

3. Rules on the Bus

- a. Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
- b. Sit in your seat facing forward.
- c. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- d. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- e. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
- f. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
- g. Do not throw any object.
- h. No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- i. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- j. Do not damage the school bus.

4. Consequences

- a. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extracurricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of CCS. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

(1) All students:

1st offense	written warning
2nd offense	3 school-day suspension from riding the bus
3rd offense	5 school-day suspension from riding the bus
4th offense	10 school-day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with parent/guardian

Further offenses individually considered. Students may be suspended for longer periods of time, including the remainder of the school year.

Note: When any student goes 60 transportation days without a report, the student's consequences may start over at the first offense.

(3) Other Discipline

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may

be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school also may result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

- (4) Records  
Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to CCS's director and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that causes an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property will be provided by CCS and to local law enforcement and the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.
- (5) Vandalism/Bus Damage  
Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.
- (6) Notice  
School bus and bus stop rules and consequences for violations of these rules will be reviewed with students annually and copies of these rules will be made available to students. School bus rules are to be posted on each school bus.
- (7) Criminal Conduct  
In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, possession or vandalism), CCS personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

#### **IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT**

- A. Parent/Guardian Notification  
CCS's school bus and bus stop rules will be provided to each family. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.
- B. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities for Transportation Safety  
Parents/Guardians are responsible to:
  1. Become familiar with CCS's rules, policies, regulations, and the principles of school bus safety, and thoroughly review them with their children;
  2. Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions;
  3. Communicate safety concerns to CCS;
  4. Monitor bus stops, if possible;
  5. Have their student to the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives;
  6. Have their student properly dressed for the weather; and
  7. Have a plan in case the bus is late.

#### **V. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. School bus drivers shall have a valid Class A, B, or C Minnesota driver's license with a school bus endorsement. A person possessing a valid driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may drive a vehicle with a seating capacity of 10 or fewer persons used as a school bus, but not outwardly equipped or identified as a school bus as set forth in Section VII.B., below. Drivers with a valid Class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a "Type A-I" school bus as set forth in Section VII.C., below.

- B. CCS shall conduct mandatory drug and alcohol testing of all CCS bus drivers and bus driver applicants in accordance with state and federal law and CCS's policy.
- C. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-I school bus or type III vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license and who is convicted of a criminal offense, a serious traffic violation, or of violating any other state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, in any type of motor vehicle in a state or jurisdiction other than Minnesota, shall notify the Minnesota Division of Driver and Vehicle Services (Division) of the conviction within 30 days of the conviction. For purposes of this paragraph, a "serious traffic violation" means a conviction of any of the following offenses:
  1. excessive speeding, involving any single offense for any speed of 15 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit;
  2. reckless driving;
  3. improper or erratic traffic lane changes;
  4. following the vehicle ahead too closely;
  5. a violation of state or local law, relating to motor vehicle traffic control, arising in connection with a fatal accident;
  6. driving a commercial vehicle without obtaining a commercial driver's license or without having a commercial driver's license in the driver's possession;
  7. driving a commercial vehicle without the proper class of commercial driver's license and/or endorsements for the specific vehicle group being operated or for the passengers or type of cargo being transported;
  8. a violation of a state or local law prohibiting texting while driving a commercial vehicle; and
  9. a violation of a state or local law prohibiting the use of a hand-held mobile telephone while driving a commercial vehicle.
- D. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-I school bus or type III vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license and who is convicted of violating, in any type of motor vehicle, a Minnesota state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, shall notify the person's employer of the conviction within 30 days of conviction. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment A accompanying this policy.
- E. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-I school bus, who has a Minnesota commercial driver's license suspended, revoked, or canceled by the state of Minnesota or any other state or jurisdiction and who loses the right to operate a commercial vehicle for any period or who is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for any period shall notify the person's employer of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. Such notification shall be made before the end of the business day following the day the employee received notice of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment B accompanying this policy.
- F. A person who operates a type III vehicle and who sustains a conviction as described in Section VII.C.1.g. (i.e., driving while impaired offenses), VII.C.1.h. (i.e., felony, controlled substance, criminal sexual conduct offenses, or offenses for surreptitious observation, indecent exposure, use of minor in a sexual performance, or possession of child pornography or display of pornography to a minor), or VII.C.1.i. (multiple moving violations) while employed by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, shall report the conviction to the person's employer within 10 days of the date of the conviction. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment C accompanying this policy.

## VI. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING

A. Training

1. All new school bus drivers shall be provided with pre-service training, including in-vehicle (actual driving) instruction before transporting students and shall meet the competency testing specified in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual. All school bus drivers shall receive in-service training annually. CCS shall retain on file an annual individual school bus driver "evaluation certification" form for each CCS driver as contained in the Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.
2. All bus drivers operating a type III vehicle will be provided with annual training and certification as set forth in Section VII.C.1.b., below, by either the charter school or the entity from whom such services are contracted by the charter school.

B. Evaluation

School bus drivers with a Class A, B, and D license will be evaluated annually and all other bus drivers will be assessed periodically for the following competencies:

1. Safely operate the type of school bus the driver will be driving;
2. Understand student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;
3. Ensure orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of misconduct appropriately;
4. Know and understand relevant laws, rules of the road and local school bus safety policies;
5. Handle emergency situations; and
6. Safely load and unload students.

The evaluation must include completion of an individual "school bus driver evaluation form" (road test evaluation) as contained in the Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.

## VII. OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES

A. General Operating Rules

1. School buses shall be operated in accordance with state traffic and school bus safety laws and the procedures contained in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.
2. Only students assigned to the school bus by CCS shall be transported. The number of students or other authorized passengers transported in a school bus shall not be more than the legal capacity for the bus. No person shall be allowed to stand when the bus is in motion.
3. The parent/guardian may designate, pursuant to CCS's policy, a day care facility, respite care facility, the residence of a relative or the residence of a person chosen by the parent or guardian as the address of the student for transportation purposes. The address must be in the attendance area of the assigned school and meet all other eligibility requirements.
4. Bus drivers must minimize, to the extent practical, the idling of school bus engines and exposure of children to diesel exhaust fumes.
5. Bus drivers must park and load school buses at a sufficient distance from school air-intake systems to avoid diesel fumes from being drawn into the systems.
6. A bus driver may not operate a school bus while communicating over, or otherwise operating, a cellular phone for personal reasons, whether hand-held or hands free, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. For purposes of this paragraph, "school bus" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes section 169.011, subdivision 71. In addition, "school bus" also includes type III vehicles when driven by employees or agents of the charter school. "Cellular phone" means a cellular, analog, wireless, or digital telephone capable of sending or receiving telephone or text messages without an access line for service.

B. Type III Vehicles

1. Type III vehicles are restricted to passenger cars, station wagons, vans, and buses having a maximum manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 10 or fewer people including the driver and a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. A van or bus converted to a seating capacity of 10 or fewer and placed in service on or after August 1, 1999, must have been originally manufactured to comply with the passenger safety standards.
2. Type III vehicles must be painted a color other than national school bus yellow.
3. Type III vehicles shall be state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.
4. A Type III vehicle cannot be older than 12 years old unless excepted by state and federal law.
5. If a Type III vehicle is school owned, CCS's name will be clearly marked on the side of the vehicle. The Type III vehicle must not have the words "school bus" in any location on the exterior of the vehicle or in any interior location visible to a motorist.
6. A "Type III school bus" and "Type III Head Start bus" must not be outwardly equipped and identified as a Type A, B, C, or D bus.
7. Eight-lamp warning systems and stop arms must not be installed or used on Type III vehicles.
8. Type III vehicles must be equipped with mirrors as required by law.
9. Any Type III vehicle may not stop traffic and may not load or unload before making a complete stop and disengaging gears by shifting into neutral or park. Any Type III vehicle used to transport students must not load or unload so that a student has to cross the road, except where not possible or impractical, then the driver or assistant must escort a student across the road. If the driver escorts the student across the road, then the motor must be stopped, the ignition key removed, the brakes set, and the vehicle otherwise rendered immobile.
10. Any Type III vehicle used to transport students must carry emergency equipment including:
  - a. Fire extinguisher. A minimum of one 10BC rated dry chemical type fire extinguisher is required. The extinguisher must be mounted in a bracket, and must be located in the driver's compartment and be readily accessible to the driver and passengers. A pressure indicator is required and must be easily read without removing the extinguisher from its mounted position.
  - b. First aid kit and body fluids cleanup kit. A minimum of a ten-unit first aid kit and a body fluids cleanup kit is required. They must be contained in removable, moisture- and dust-proof containers mounted in an accessible place within the driver's compartment and must be marked to indicate their identity and location.
  - c. A Type III bus must contain at least three red reflectorized triangle road warning devices. Liquid burning "pot type" flares are not allowed.
  - d. Passenger cars and station wagons may carry a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, and warning triangles in the trunk or trunk area of the vehicle if a label in the driver and front passenger area clearly indicates the location of these items.
11. Students will not be regularly transported in private vehicles that are not state inspected as Type III vehicles. Only emergency, unscheduled transportation may be conducted in vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or fewer without meeting the requirements for a Type III vehicle. CCS has no system of inspection for private vehicles.
12. All drivers of Type III vehicles will be licensed drivers and will be familiar with the use of required emergency equipment. CCS will not knowingly allow a person to operate a Type III vehicle if the person has been convicted of an offense that disqualifies the person from operating a school bus.
13. Type III vehicles will be equipped with child passenger restraints, and child passenger restraints will be utilized to the extent required by law.

C. Type A-I “Activity” Buses Driven by Employees with Class D Driver’s License

1. The holder of a Class D driver’s license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a Type A-I school bus under the following conditions:
  - a. The operator is an employee of or an independent CCS contractor with whom CCS contracts for the school bus and is not solely hired to provide transportation services under this paragraph.
  - b. The operator drives the school bus only from points of origin to points of destination, not including home-to-school trips to pick up or drop off students.
  - c. The operator is prohibited from using the eight-light system.
  - d. The operator has submitted to a background check and physical examination as required by Minnesota Statutes section 171.321, subdivision 2.
  - e. The operator has a valid driver’s license and has not sustained a conviction of a disqualifying offense as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 171.02, subdivision 2a(b).
  - f. The operator has been trained in the proper use of child safety restraints as set forth in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s “Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-Kindergarten Age Children in School Buses” in addition to the training required in Part VI., above.
2. CCS shall maintain annual certification of the requirements listed in this section for each Class D license operator
3. A school bus operated under this section must bear a current certificate of inspection.
4. The word “School” on the front and rear of the bus must be covered by a sign that reads “Activities” when the bus is being operated under authority of this section.

**VIII. CCS’ EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

- A. If possible, school bus drivers or their supervisors shall call “911” or the local emergency phone number in the event of a serious emergency.
- B. School bus drivers shall meet the emergency training requirements contained in Unit III “Crash & Emergency Preparedness” of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual. This includes procedures in the event of a crash (accident).
- C. School bus drivers and bus assistants for special education students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition shall be trained in basic first aid procedures, shall within one month after the effective date of assignment participate in a program of in-service training on the proper methods for dealing with the specific needs and problems of students with disabilities, assist students with disabilities on and off the bus when necessary for their safe ingress and egress from the bus; and ensure that protective safety devices are in use and fastened properly.
- D. Emergency Health Information shall be maintained on the school bus for students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition. The information shall state:
  1. student’s name and address;
  2. the nature of the student’s disabilities;
  3. emergency health care information; and
  4. the names and telephone numbers of the student’s physician, parents, guardians, or custodians, and some person other than the student’s parents or custodians who can be contacted in case of an emergency.

**IX. CCS’ VEHICLE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

- A. All school vehicles shall be maintained in safe operating conditions through a systematic preventive



- maintenance and inspection program adopted or approved by CCS.
- B. All school vehicles shall be state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.
- C. A copy of the current daily pre-trip inspection report must be carried in the bus. Daily pre-trip inspections shall be maintained on file in accordance with CCS's record retention schedule. Prompt reports of defects to be immediately corrected will be submitted.
- D. Daily post-trip inspections shall be performed to check for any children or lost items remaining on the bus and for vandalism.

**X. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DIRECTOR**

The school board has designated an individual to serve as CCS's school transportation safety director. The school transportation safety director shall have day-to-day responsibility for student's transportation safety. The school transportation safety director will assure that this policy is periodically reviewed to ensure that it conforms to law. The school transportation safety director shall certify annually to the school board that each school bus driver meets the school bus driver training competencies required by Minnesota Statutes section 171.321, subdivision. 4. The school transportation safety director also shall confirm annually to the school board that students have received school bus safety training in accordance with state law. The name, address and telephone number of the school transportation safety director are on file in CCS's district office. Any questions regarding student transportation or this policy may be addressed to the school transportation safety director.

**XI. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The school board may establish a student transportation safety committee. The chair of the student transportation safety committee is CCS' school transportation safety director. The school board shall appoint the other members of the student transportation safety committee. Membership may include parents, school bus drivers, representatives of school bus companies, local law enforcement officials, other CCS staff, and representatives from other units of local government.

- Legal References:**
- Minn. Stat. § 122A.18, Subd. 8 (Board to Issue Licenses)
  - Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 (Background Check)
  - Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks; Individual Instruction Cooperative Learning Material; Standard Tests)
  - Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent charter schools; Transportation)
  - Minn. Stat. § 123B.885 (Diesel School Buses; Operation of Engine; Parking)
  - Minn. Stat. § 123B.90 (School Bus Safety Training)
  - Minn. Stat. § 123B.91 (charter school Bus Safety Responsibilities)
  - Minn. Stat. § 123B.935 (Active Transportation Safety Training)**
  - Minn. Stat. § 144.057 (Background Studies on Licensees and Other Personnel)
  - Minn. Stat. Ch. 169 (Traffic Regulations)
  - Minn. Stat. § 169.011, Subds. 15, 16, and 71 (Definitions)
  - Minn. Stat. § 169.02 (Scope)
  - Minn. Stat. § 169.443 (Safety of School Children; Bus Driver's Duties)
  - Minn. Stat. § 169.446, Subd. 2 (Safety of School Children; Training and Education Rules)
  - Minn. Stat. § 169.451 (Inspecting School and Head Start Buses; Rules; Misdemeanor)
  - Minn. Stat. § 169.454 (Type III Vehicle Standards)
  - Minn. Stat. § 169.4582 (Reportable Offense on School Buses)
  - Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.25-169A.27 (Driving While Impaired)
  - Minn. Stat. § 169A.31 (Alcohol-Related School Bus or Head Start Bus Driving)
  - Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.50-169A.53 (Implied Consent Law)

Minn. Stat. § 171.02, Subds. 2, 2a, and 2b (Licenses; Types, Endorsements, Restrictions)  
Minn. Stat. § 171.168 (Notice of Violation by Commercial Driver)  
Minn. Stat. § 171.169 (Notice of Commercial License Suspension)  
Minn. Stat. § 171.321 (Qualifications of School Bus and Type III Vehicle Drivers)  
Minn. Stat. § 171.3215, Subd. 1(c) (Canceling Bus Endorsement for Certain Offenses)  
Minn. Stat. § 181.951 (Authorized Drug and Alcohol Testing)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 245C (Human Services Background Studies)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.02 (Definitions)  
49 C.F.R. Part 383 (Commercial Driver's License Standards; Requirements and Penalties)  
49 C.F.R. § 383.51 (Disqualification of Drivers)  
Minn. Rules Parts 7470.1000-7470.1700 (School Bus Inspection)  
49 C.F.R. § 383.31 (Notification of Convictions for Driver Violations)  
49 C.F.R. § 383.33 (Notification of Driver's License Suspensions)  
49 C.F.R. § 383.5 (Transportation Definitions)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)