



REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 19

TO: RSU 19 Board of Directors
FR: Jason Scholten / Mike Hammer
DT: August 16, 2017
RE: **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

DAY: **Monday**
DATE: **August 21, 2017**
TIME: **6:30 PM**
PLACE: **Superintendent's Office**

AGENDA

- I. Public Comment
- II. Transportation Report – Dean Cray
- III. Bus Forms
- IV. Policies
 - A. EEAA Walkers and Riders
 - B. EEBDA School Bus No Idling
- V. Future Agenda Items
- VI. Other
- VII. Adjournment

A.D.A. Notice: If you have a special need that must be met to allow you to fully participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of the Superintendent at 368-5091.

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 19

School Bus Safety and Riding Regulations

The riding of tax-supported school busses in RSU 19 is a privilege granted by the Board of Directors and conditional on each rider's individual behavior and observance of the Safety and Riding Regulations. Drivers are authorized to enforce these practices and regulations and to make decisions necessary in the interest of the safe conveyance of school children. Failure to comply with the practices and regulations or wishes of the bus driver may result in suspension or expulsion of riding privileges as well as school attendance.

Bus Safety Practices

- Be respectful to the bus driver and do not cause distractions.
- Report all emergencies to the driver immediately.
- Sit properly and remain in the seat while the bus is in motion.
- Do not run, push or shove while entering or exiting the bus, and wait for the driver to fully open the door.
- Do not litter or clutter the bus aisle.
- Do not place any part of your body outside the bus at any time.
- When crossing in front of the bus, walk at least 12 feet in front of the bus and make sure to look both ways when crossing the other lane of the road.
- While waiting for the bus, stay out of the roadway and do not engage in play or activity that can be dangerous or distracting to you, others who are waiting, or to motorists, or the oncoming bus.
- Do not stop to pick up dropped objects near the bus. Report them to the driver or another adult.
- In order to change destinations or bus routes, signed permission from a parent or guardian must be presented.
- The following articles are not allowed on the daily routes: sleds, skis, ski poles, hockey sticks, animals of any type, large school projects, large musical instruments, spiked athletic footwear, or any other items that may interfere with the safety of the passengers or the operation of the school bus.

Bus Riding Regulations

- Students will sit properly in the seats and remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Students will be respectful of the bus driver and refrain from the use of loud, boisterous, vulgar or inappropriate language or gestures at all times.
- Students will walk in an orderly fashion without pushing or shoving others while entering, exiting or moving on the bus.
- Students will not place any part of their body outside the bus or display any inappropriate gestures to anyone outside the bus.
- There will be no use or possession of alcohol, tobacco or drugs on the school bus.
- There will be no weapons or flame producing objects on the school bus.
- There will be no fighting while riding on the school bus.
- Individual drivers will determine if and when food and/or drink may be consumed on the bus, however at no time will glass containers or snacks, such as lollipops which may cause choking, be allowed.
- Any vandalism, destruction or defacing of the school bus or school property will not be tolerated and restitution will be sought. In some cases legal prosecution may result.
- No throwing or shooting of objects at anytime or distraction of the bus driver.

Note: Violation of any of the above regulations may result in immediate suspension and eventually expulsion of riding privileges and school attendance.

Consequences: Drivers of school busses are authorized to enforce the safety and riding regulations and to make decisions as necessary in the interest of the safe conveyance of school children. All children should report any infractions of the safe practices and regulations to the bus driver. If children fail to comply with the regulations or wishes of the bus driver, suspension or expulsion from riding privileges may result. Furthermore, because the school bus is an extension of the school and classroom, violation of some regulations may result in suspension or expulsion from school as well.

Bus Conduct Report forms, example on following page, will be used by all drivers to keep students, parents, the school and the transportation supervisor informed about noncompliance of regulations. These will be given directly to the student and **must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the driver before the student is allowed to continue riding.**

Consequences depend upon the severity and nature of the incident. Infractions may result in immediate suspension. After a student has accumulated **three** Bus Conduct Reports, suspension and/or expulsion may be the consequence as well. The first suspension will be three days in length, and the second suspension will be five. If violation of the regulations continues, riding privileges will be suspended until the driver, transportation supervisor, parents, student and building principal meet to determine whether the student may or may not continue to ride district busses.

It must be noted that any student suspended or expelled from riding on one bus will not be allowed to ride on any other bus to include field trips and extra curricular activities.

Transportation Information & Home/School Contract 2017-2018

This form is to be completely filled out and signed by the student and parent and returned to school within 10 days or riding privileges may be suspended.

Student's Name: Grade:

Parent/Guardian's Name:

Address:

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Emergency Contact Person: Phone:

Bus Number:

I have read (and/or read to my child) the bus safety practices and riding regulations for RSU 19. I understand the discipline procedure and consequences that may result in the event that the regulations are not followed. I understand that certain misbehaviors may result in the immediate suspension or expulsion of riding privileges as well as school attendance. I, also, understand that any violation of the safe practices or riding regulations should be reported to the bus driver immediately.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Assigned Bus #: _____ Driver: _____

Any Bus Transfers: _____

Student Name: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian Home #: _____ Cell #: _____ Work #: _____

Physical address where student will be picked up and dropped off

AM pick up: Street/Road & No.: _____

Town: _____

Description of home: _____

PM drop off (if different) Street/Road & No.: _____

Description of home: _____

Emergency contact name and numbers

Emergency contacts if unable to reach parent/guardian: (2 please)

Name/relationship: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

Name/relationship: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

Any medical issues to be aware of: _____

WALKERS AND RIDERS

Transportation shall be provided for all school children who live beyond such reasonable distances from their schools as the Board may determine.

In addition, transportation shall be provided for all special education students, students attending the Regional Vocational/Technical School, and others as prescribed by law or deemed advisable by the Board.

Students attending the Vocational Center will go to and return from Dexter Vocational via transportation provided by the District.

The following guidelines shall be observed:

Walking Policies

1. Students K-5 shall walk up to one mile to their elementary schools.
2. Students 6-8 shall walk up to one and one-quarter mile to junior high schools.
3. Students 9-12 shall walk up to one and one-half mile to the high school.
- 4.

Distances are measured from the nearest school entrance along a reasonable route to home.

Exceptions to the walking limits may be made by the school administration when roads are determined to be unsafe because of hazardous traffic conditions. Requests for exceptions may be made through the Transportation Supervisor to the Superintendent.

The police and the highway department shall be notified of the roads used by walkers, and shall be requested to keep these roads as safe as possible by controlling highway speeds and keeping the roads clear of snow, and by providing crossing guards to the extent possible at intersections and main crossing points when school officials and police deem such areas unsafe for normal unsupervised crossing.

Riding Policies

1. Children may be required to walk a reasonable distance to a scheduled bus stop. Students living on outlying roads, where bus routes are not established and where the walking distance to the main road is less than one mile, will walk to the designated bus stop on the main road and be transported from there to their respective schools.

First Reading:

Adopted:

2. Stops will be chosen with concern for hunters and safety of the children involved.
3. Bus drivers shall pick up only at scheduled stops; they shall not admit students not assigned to the particular bus. Drivers are required not to exceed the legal bus capacity.
4. Students shall ride only on assigned buses. At the close of school, they shall be transported only to the original pick-up point, and they shall not be permitted to disembark at other points or to ride other buses.

Once a child boards the bus -- and only at that time - - does he or she become the responsibility of the school district. Such responsibility shall end when the child is delivered to the regular bus stop at the close of the school day.

In view of the fact that a bus is an extension of the classroom, the Board shall require children to conduct themselves in the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior.

Students waiting for buses shall wait in designated areas and shall not crowd near the bus while the vehicle is in motion. Students waiting for the bus shall allow all passengers on the bus to be discharged prior to their entering the bus.

RSU 19 accepts the responsibility of transporting all students within its set busing boundaries to and from school in a comfortable and safe manner. The RSU 19 Board of Directors understands that in today's society there may be a need for cooperation in children's activities; especially in the case of two (2) working parents, single parents, etc. It is important to understand, however, that the RSU 19 Board of Directors cannot alter bus routes or overload buses due to family or individual childcare needs, or organized group activities.

The decision on the above shall be made by the Transportation Supervisor, Principal and Superintendent and is binding.

First Reading:
Adopted:

RSU 19 SCHOOL BUS NO IDLING

Applicability:

This policy applies to the operation of all heavy-duty diesel-powered school busses and district vehicles.

Rationale:

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), exposure to diesel exhaust, even at low levels, is a serious health hazard and can cause respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis, lung damage and increases the risk of lung cancer. Diesel emissions are well documented asthma triggers and may increase the severity of asthma attacks. Asthma is currently the number one cause of missed school days for American children with more than 1 in 10 children in New England reporting asthma attacks.

RSU 19 agrees to undertake the following steps immediately:

- ◆ School bus drivers will shut off bus engines immediately upon reaching their destination, and buses will not idle while waiting for passengers. This rule applies to daily route travel, field trips, and transportation to and from athletic events. School buses will not be restarted until they are ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area.
- ◆ School bus companies and drivers will limit idling time during early morning warm-up to the manufacturer’s recommendation – generally 3-5 minutes in all but the coldest weather. Recommended guidelines include:

<i>If the outside temperature is: above 32 degrees F</i>	<i>5 minute maximum</i>
<i>between -10 and 32 degrees F</i>	<i>15 minute maximum</i>
<i>below -10 degrees F</i>	<i>no limit</i>

- ◆ To reduce engine warm-up time, avoid starting difficulties and defrost windows, RSU 19 will use block heaters that plug into electrical outlets and Webasto diesel fuel fired auxiliary heaters.
- ◆ If a bus needs an engine to run flashing lights during longer duration loading and unloading, mechanical staff will install an extra battery and change the circuit configurations to power lights by battery without running the engine.
- ◆ RSU 19 will provide an indoor waiting space for drivers who arrive early and need to keep warm. This eliminates the need for bus idling.

First Reading:
Adopted:

- ◆ All bus drivers should receive a copy of this policy or equivalent educational materials at the beginning of every school year.
- ◆ The construction of all new schools by RSU 19 should incorporate measures to minimize children's exposure to diesel emissions. Bus parking zones and school loading zones will be designed to limit diesel exhaust inside the bus and in the school. Avoid proximity to school air intake vents, and turn engines off when loading or unloading students to prevent front-to-back passing of emissions and reduce diesel fumes in each bus.
- ◆ RSU 19 will purchase only low-sulfur diesel fuel for use in district vehicles.
- ◆ Exceptions to this policy are granted only when running the engine is necessary to operate required safety equipment or to maintain a safe environment for students with special health needs.

Agency or Company Representative: _____

Name of Individual Authorizing Implementation: _____

Date Accepted: _____

First Reading:

Adopted: