

World Learner School



POLICY: 766 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1.27.20

REVISED DATE:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide safe transportation for 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

World Learner School may designate a school bus safety week. The National School Bus Safety Week is usually the third week of October.

B. Student Training.

1. World Learner School shall provide students enrolled with age-appropriate school bus safety training. The training shall consist of both classroom instruction and practical training using a school bus. Student training shall fulfill all statutory requirements.

- a. transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
- b. school district 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 1- 8 who are enrolled during the first or second week of school must demonstrate achievement of the school bus safety training by the end of the sixth week of school.

3. World Learner School will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.

4. World Learner School may provide student safety education for bicycling and pedestrian safety for students in grades K through 5.

III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR

A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. World Learner School's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses, and at school bus stops including nonpublic and charter school students.

B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by World Learner School under adopted administrative discipline procedures. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules

The school bus safety rules of ISD 112 (contracted to provide transportation for students for access to school) are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, World Learner School's discipline procedures are to be followed. In most circumstances, consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the school bus driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to World Learner School's Office.

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, e-cigarettes, vaporizers 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, e-cigarettes, vaporizers or drugs.
- i. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- j. Do not damage the school bus.

4. Consequences

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with cocurricular and extracurricular events will be in the sole discretion of World Learner School. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

1st offense – warning

2nd offense – may result in 1-3 school-day suspension from riding the bus

3rd offense – may result in 3-5 school-day suspension
from riding the bus

4th offense – may result in 5-10 school-day suspension
from riding the bus/meeting with parent

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

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

A principal or their designee has the discretion to revise an individual Bus Conduct Report, to give lesser punishment, to increase the school bus suspension and/or to include suspension, after reviewing each student's Bus Conduct Report.

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.

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the school office 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 the school district to the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.

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.

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, drug possession, or vandalism), the appropriate school district personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

IV. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following topics shall be outlined in a driver procedure that is annually approved and reviewed by the School Board.

- A. School bus drivers employed by World Learner School 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 operate a "type A-1" school bus or "type III" vehicle.
- B. World Learner School shall conduct mandatory drug and alcohol testing of all school district bus drivers and bus driver applicants in accordance with state and federal law and school district policy.
- C. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-1 school bus or type III vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license and who is

convicted of criminal offense, a serious traffic violation, or of violating any other state or local law relating to motor vehicle in a state 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.

D. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operation a type A-1 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 parking violation, shall notify administration of the conviction within 30 days of the conviction. The notification shall be in writing.

E. A School bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-1 school bus or type III vehicle, who has a Minnesota commercial driver’s license suspended, revoked, or cancelled 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 administration of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, loss of 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, loss of privilege, or disqualification. The notification shall be in writing.

F. A person who operates a type III vehicle and who sustains a conviction as described in Section 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 World Learner School shall report the conviction to administration within ten days of the date of the conviction. The notification shall be in writing.

VI. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING

The following topics shall be outlined in a driver handbook that is annually approved and reviewed by the School Board.

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. For the purposes of this section, “annually” means at least once every 380 days from the initial or previous license verification. The school district shall retain on file an annual individual school bus driver “evaluation certification” form for each school district 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 school district or the entity from whom such services are contracted by the school district.

B. Evaluation

School bus drivers with a Class 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

The following topics shall be outlined in a transportation handbook that is annually approved and reviewed by the School Board.

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 the school district shall be transported. The number 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. Bus drivers must minimize, to the extent practical, the idling of school bus engines and exposure of children to diesel exhaust fumes.
4. To the extent practical, the school district will designate school bus loading/unloading zones at a sufficient distance from school air-intake systems to avoid diesel fumes from being drawn into the systems.
5. 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 the paragraph, “school bus” has the meaning given in Minn. Stat. § 169.011, Subd. 71. In addition, “school bus” also

includes type III vehicles when driven by employees or agents of the school district. "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 the 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 district owned, the school district 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 motorist.
6. A "type III vehicle" must not be outwardly equipped and indentified 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 vehicle 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 truck area of the vehicle if a label in the driver and front passenger area clearly indicated the location of these items.
11. Students will not be transported in private vehicle that is 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. Also, parents may use a private vehicle to transport their own children under a contract with district. The school district 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. The school district 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 and in accordance with WLS Policy 405 Booster Seat Policy.

C. Type III Vehicle Driven by Employees with a Class D Driver’s License

1. The holder of a Class A, B, C, or D driver’s license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a type III vehicle, described above, under the following conditions:
- a. The operator is an employee of World Learner School.
 - b. The operator has completed annual training and certification in:
 - (1) Safe operation of a type III vehicle;
 - (2) Understanding student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;
 - (3) Encouraging orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of misconduct appropriately;
 - (4) Knowing and understanding relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus safety policies;
 - (5) Handling emergency situations;
 - (6) Proper use of seat belts and child safety restraints;
 - (7) Performance of pretrip vehicle inspections;
 - (8) Safe loading and unloading of students, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Utilizing a safe location for loading and unloading students at the curb, on the nontraffic side of the roadway, or at off-street loading areas, driveways, yards, and other areas to enable the student to avoid hazardous conditions.
 - (b) Refraining from loading or unloading students

in a vehicular traffic lane, on the shoulder, in the designated turn lane, or a lane adjacent to a designated turn lane;

- (c) Avoiding a loading or unloading location that would require a student to cross a road, or ensuring that the driver or an aide personally escort the student across the road if it is not reasonably feasible to avoid such a location; and
- (d) Placing the type III vehicle in “park” during loading and unloading; and
- (e) escorting a student across the road under
- (f) clause (c) only after the motor is stopped, the ignition key is removed, the brakes are set, and the vehicle is otherwise rendered immobile; and

(9) Compliance with reporting convictions to World Learner School within ten days of the date of conviction.

- c. A background check or background investigation of the operator has been conducted that meets the requirement under Minn. Stat. § 122A.18, Subd. 8 or Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 for school district employees; or Minn. Stat. § 144.057 or Minn. Stat. Ch. 245C for day care employees; or Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 3, for all other persons operating a type A or type III vehicle under this section.
- d. Operators shall submit to a physical examination as required by Minn. Stat. §171.321, Subd. 2.
- e. The operator’s employer requires preemployment drug and alcohol testing of applicants for operator positions. Current operators must comply with the employer’s policy under Minn. Stat. § 181.951, Subds. 2, 4, and 5.
- f. The operator’s driver’s license is verified at a minimum annually by district.
- g. A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under Minn. Stat. §609.02, of violating Minn. Stat. § 169A.25, § 169A.26, § 169A.27 (driving while impaired offenses), or § 169A.31 (alcohol-related school bus driver offenses), or whose driver’s license is revoked under Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.50 to 169A.53 of the implied consent law, or who is convicted of violating or whose driver’s license is revoked under a similar statute or ordinance of another state, is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for five years from the date of conviction.
- h. A person who has ever been convicted of a disqualifying offense as defined in Minn. Stat. § 171.3215, Subd.1(c), (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) may not operate a type III vehicle.
- i. A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under Minn.

Stat. § 609.02, of a moving offense in violation of Minn. Stat. Ch. 169 within three years of the first of three other moving offenses is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for one year from the date of the last conviction.

- j. Students riding the type III vehicle must have training required under Minn. Stat. §123B.90, Subd.2 (See Section II.B., above).
- k. Documentation of meeting the requirements listed in this section must be maintained under separate file at World Learner School for each type III vehicle operator. World Learner School or any other entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the type III vehicle operating under this section is responsible for maintaining these files for inspection.

2. The type III vehicle must bear a current certificate of inspection issued under Minn. Stat. § 169.451.

3. An employee of the school district who is not employed for the sole purpose of operating a type III vehicle may, in the discretion of the school district, be exempt from paragraphs VII.C.1.d. (physical examination) and VII.C.1.e. (drug and alcohol testing), above.

D. Type A-I “Activity” Buses Driven by Employees with a Driver’s License Without a School Bus Endorsement

1. The holder of a Class D driver’s license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a type A-I school bus or a Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB) under the following conditions:

- a. The operator is an employee of World Learner School or an independent contractor with whom World Learner School 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 8-light system if the vehicle is so equipped.
- d. The operator has submitted to a background check and physical examination as required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 2.
- e. The operator has a valid driver’s license and has not sustained a conviction of a disqualifying offense as set forth in Minn. Stat. § 171.02, Subd. 2a(h) - 2a(j).
- 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-school Age Children in School Buses,” if child safety restraints are used by passengers, in addition to the training required in Section VI., above.
- g. The bus has a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,500 pounds or less and is designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver.

2. The school district 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. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The following topics shall be outlined in a driver handbook that is annually approved and reviewed by the School Board.

- A. In the event of a medical emergency, the driver will follow driving regulations and exit the roadway, secure the vehicle at a stop, turn on hazard lights and turn the vehicle off.
- B. If possible, school bus drivers or their supervisors shall call "911" or the local emergency phone number in the event of a medical emergency or any vehicle accident. The call must be made after the vehicle is at a full stop.
- C. 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).
- D. 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.
- E. 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. the 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. SCHOOL DISTRICT 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 World Learner School.
- 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 the school district'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. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

The school board may establish a student transportation safety committee. The chair of the student transportation safety committee is World Learner School's 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 school district 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.88 (Independent School Districts; Transportation)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.885 (Diesel School Buses; Operation of Engine; Parking)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.90 (School Bus Safety Training)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.91 (School District Bus Safety Responsibilities)
- Minn. Stat. § 144.057 (Background Studies on Licensees and Other Personnel)
- Minn. Stat. Ch. 169 (Traffic Regulations)
- Minn. Stat. § 169.011, Subds. 15 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 (Driver Training Programs)
- 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 (Notification of Conviction for Violation by a Commercial Driver)
- Minn. Stat. § 171.169 (Notification of Suspension of License of Commercial Driver)
- Minn. Stat. § 171.321 (Qualifications of School Bus Driver)
- 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) 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:

- New Prague District 721 Policy 709
- World Learner School District 4016 Policy 405