

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The Westfield Public Schools provides free bus transportation for all high school students in accordance with applicable laws. The authority of the school begins and ends at the bus stops, both in the morning and in the afternoon. As such all school rules apply to student activity during these times. Students who violate school rules may have their privilege to ride the school bus revoked in addition to any standard disciplinary action. If a student is suspended from riding the bus, it becomes the responsibility of the student and his/her parents to provide transportation to and from school. Additional rules that apply specifically to riding the school bus are:

1. Abusive language is prohibited on school buses.
2. No smoking will be permitted on a school bus.
3. Horseplay of any kind will not be allowed on the bus regardless of whether the bus is standing or moving. This means that all students will
 - a. not kneel on bus seats and talk to persons on seats behind them;
 - b. not tamper with the bus and its equipment, especially the windows.
 - c. not put arms, legs, head or any part of their body out of the window;
 - d. not move around or change seats in the bus once it is in motion.
4. No throwing of objects, regardless of whether the bus is standing still or moving.
5. No rough or disorderly physical misbehavior will be permitted on the bus.
6. Chewing gum, eating food or drinking beverages in not allowed on the bus.
7. No items may be carried on the bus except materials that will be held by the student or placed directly on the floor under the seat directly in front of the student.
8. The emergency doors of school buses are for emergency use only.
9. Students, when getting on and off the bus, shall cross in front of the bus and only upon the receiving of a signal to cross from the bus driver.

Students being transported are under the authority of the bus driver. The bus driver is required to report rule violations. Continued disorderly conduct or refusal to submit to the authority of the bus driver is sufficient cause for a student to be refused transportation on school buses.

A pupil may be suspended from bus transportation upon the principal's receipt of the pupil's third Bus Conduct Report and the receipt of any subsequent Bus Conduct Report could result in a subsequent suspension. BUS CONDUCT REPORTS and recommendations made with respect to students for the last day of the school year will be implemented in the following school year. Unfulfilled disciplinary assignments will be carried forward and continued in September of the following school year.

Alternate buses:

1. No bus will be rerouted to provide transportation for any individual or group with directions from the transportation office.
2. Buses will only stop to discharge students at regularly scheduled stops. No additional stops will be scheduled without directions from the Transportation Office.

LEGAL REF: MGL 71:68

Adopted: September 9, 1996

(replaces JFCC)

Revised: October 15, 2004

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