

August 2018

Dear Parent,

The Cedar Rapids Community School District expects passengers to help ensure a safe ride by being courteous, polite, respectful and to conduct themselves in an orderly manner.

Many of our buses have video recording devices which will be used according to district policy to monitor student and staff behavior. The safety of every child is a great concern to all of us. These devices are not meant to be punitive. Instead, we want to prevent students from misbehaving in the first place. In general, any activity that distracts the driver is objectionable.

Unacceptable behavior is refusal to accept seating assignments, noise that interferes with the safe operation of the bus, rudeness to other students and/or staff, movement from seat to seat while the bus is in motion, the throwing of any object inside the bus or throwing an object through an open window or door, any form of damage to the bus, or any other behavior that is deemed dangerous or disruptive by staff. It is the policy of the Transportation Department not to allow students to bring skateboards, scooters, sleds, pets, fishing poles, golf clubs, ball bats, etc., on the school bus. We do not have the means to properly secure these items, therefore they pose safety and behavior issues. Items that can not be secured in a book bag or backpack, given certain traffic situations, may become airborne, setting the stage for an accident and/or injuries. The safe transportation of students must be our number one priority. If you have any questions, about whether or not an item can be brought on please feel free to contact transportation.

The following reminders are prominently posted in the passenger seating area of each bus:

### **THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING THESE BUS EXPECTATIONS**

- 1. Obey the driver and attendant.**
- 2. For your safety, sit facing forward.**
- 3. For others safety, keep feet and legs out of the aisle.**
- 4. Keep noise to a minimum - use classroom voice.**
- 5. Use respectful language; no foul language.**
- 6. Keep hands and feet to yourself.**
- 7. No tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or prohibited items.**
- 8. No skateboards, fishing poles, loose sports items, etc.**
- 9. No eating or drinking without prior approval.**
- 10. Cell phones must be stored out of sight unless instructed by staff to use in an emergency.**

Continuing with the 2018-19 school year, when the driver observes any unacceptable behavior, a referral will be issued and turned in to the Safety and Training Supervisor. The Safety and Training Supervisor will then relay the information and consequences to the appropriate school administration and parent or guardian.

The consequences corresponding to behavior referrals are as follows:

1st referral: Parent/guardian contacted

2<sup>nd</sup> referral: Bus suspension for **1- 3 days**, both AM and PM routes.

Parent/guardian contacted

3<sup>rd</sup> referral: Bus suspension for **3- 5 days**, both AM and PM routes.

Parent/guardian contacted

4<sup>th</sup> referral: Bus suspension for **10 days**, both AM and PM routes.

Parent/guardian contacted

5<sup>th</sup> referral: Bus suspension for the **rest of the year**. Parent/guardian contacted

Students may be required to provide ID's to ride the bus. A one day allowance will be provided to those students not carrying one upon first request.

Serious infractions will be dealt with on an individual basis and may lead to the student being suspended from the bus for longer than stated above. These infractions include fighting, serious harassment, or jeopardizing the safety of the entire bus.

If a suspended student tries to ride the bus before the suspension is over, the student will not be allowed to ride. Students will be issued a referral and their suspension will be automatically extended to the appropriate length. It is the responsibility of the student and parent or guardian to find the student a way to and from school during the suspension period.

Due to seating capacity issues and accident liability students will no longer be allowed to have friends ride home with them. Notes to the driver will NO LONGER be accepted and arrangements need to be made prior. When accidents occur our office utilizes the student roster for the assigned route to contact the school and parents. Students riding the bus that are not on the route sheet would be missed and notifying a parent would not be able to be made in a timely manner.

The Transportation Department welcomes your questions, comments and suggestions. Please contact us at [transportation@cr.k12.ia.us](mailto:transportation@cr.k12.ia.us) or 558-2318.

We look forward to being of service to you during the 2018-19 school year.

Sincerely,

Erica Shelangoski  
Safety and Training Supervisor