

**STUDENT CONDUCT WHILE RIDING ON  
SCHOOL-PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION**

M.S.A.D. No. 75 transportation to and from school is a privilege and not a right under Maine State Law. Improper behavior may result in suspension or revocation of the privilege to ride on a school bus.

**Behavioral Expectations**

It is the right of every student to expect to be transported in an environment free of intimidation, ridicule and hostility. In support of this and in compliance with the Maine Civil Rights Act, M.S.A.D. No. 75 prohibits harassment or ridicule of students based upon race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, national origin or handicap, or for any other reason. Harassment includes but is not limited to the following:

- advances, sexual advances, gestures, comments or contact
- threats, intimidation or assault
- offensive jokes or words
- ridicule, slurs, derogatory statements or remarks

In general, behavior expectations are the same as if the students were in class. The bus driver is responsible for the safe transport of all on board and will notify students of the behavior which is expected. The following are examples of improper behavior.

- excessive noise
- changing seats while the bus is in motion
- obstructing the aisles
- excessive displays of affection

**Prohibited Articles**

The following items are prohibited from being brought onto the bus:

- matches, lighters, flammable liquids or incendiary devices
- pocket knives, box cutters, razor blades or any sharp object designed for cutting or stabbing
- weapons of any kind, including but not limited to firearms, ammunition, explosives and brass knuckles
- laser pointers, strobe lights or flashing devices that may distract the driver
- glass or fragile items that may create a hazard if damaged
- skateboards

### **Cameras**

Cameras – both still and video – are not to be used on any school bus except for official business or with the explicit permission of the Transportation Director or Superintendent, as well as the person/persons being photographed.

### **Laptop Computers**

Laptop computers may be transported to and from school, provided they are kept stored at all times. Laptops may not be used at any time while on the bus.

*The use of items listed below may be allowed by the driver, provided they are used for their intended purposes, do not become a public nuisance or do not negatively affect the safe transport of students. These items are a privilege to use on the bus, and their use may be suspended by the driver at any time during transport.*

### **Personal Stereos and Video Players**

Personal stereos, video players or other small electronic devices with headphones may be used throughout the bus ride, provided that they do not become a nuisance to other riders or distract the user to the point that he/she becomes unaware of his/her surroundings. Volume levels are to be kept low enough so that the user can hear the driver at all times. Larger stereos (“boom boxes”) and amplifying devices such as bull horns may be brought onboard but are prohibited from use while on the bus. The use of headphones is mandatory.

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phones may be used while on board M.S.A.D. No. 75 vehicles, providing the following guidelines are observed:

- Normal voice levels are maintained at all times.
- Usage does not become a nuisance to other riders.
- Vibrate mode should be used. Loud, annoying or offensive ringtones will not be tolerated.
- *Video recording or picture taking with cell phones while on the bus is prohibited.*

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