

323 SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION: STUDENT'S CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Belief

The Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC) follows cultural and traditional teachings of the Maskwacis Cree, in particular Wahkohtowin. Wahkohtowin is the belief that all things are related and connected, that all of existence has spirit and that living in a good way requires us to maintain good relationships with each other and other aspects of existence. We recognize that respect for mother earth, elders, youth, and the Treaties are paramount to planning ahead and making decisions for future generations.

The MESC believes that the safety of our students are of utmost importance. To ensure that students are safe the school administration and the drivers must work together to ensure the safety and conduct of students while riding a bus.

Procedures

1. Students are accountable for their behaviour on the bus. Students shall:
 - 1.1. Conduct themselves in a manner to promote positive behaviour and contribute to the safe conduct of all occupants on the bus;
 - 1.2. Understand that the school bus driver is in full charge of the bus at all times. Passengers must obey the driver promptly and in a courteous manner;
 - 1.3. Be waiting at the pickup location 5 minutes before the expected arrival time of the bus and be ready to board the bus at the designated pick-up time. The bus driver will stop to pick up all students but will not wait if students are not at the bus stop.
 - 1.4. The bus will not stop for a household or family who miss the bus three consecutive days. Parents will have to call the MESC Dispatcher to reinstate service.
 - 1.5. Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner;
 - 1.6. Remain seated in the seat allocated by the bus driver except when boarding or exiting the bus;
 - 1.7. Stay on the bus for the entire trip, unless prior arrangements are made, exiting only as permitted at the appropriate designated location;
 - 1.8. Keep noise to an acceptable level;
 - 1.9. Refrain from the use of electronic devices, except those fitted with earphones;
 - 1.10. Not throw, hang or extend any object or body part out the bus window;
 - 1.11. Keep the aisle and exits clear at all times;

- 1.12. Refrain from engaging in behaviours that are deemed intimidating, threatening, vulgar and/or that which constitutes an assault of other passengers;
 - 1.13. Be responsible, along with their parents/guardians, for any damages that are the result of vandalism; and
 - 1.14. Be dressed for unexpected severe weather conditions during winter months.
2. In the interests of safety, where a pickup is on a primary or secondary highway, the driver will use discretion as to whether or not to come to a complete stop when students are not waiting at the pick up point.
3. The driver shall immediately deal with inappropriate behaviour as follows:
 - 3.1. Attempt to solve the problem by dealing with the student(s) involved in the incident. Dealings shall be strictly verbal, as physical discipline by bus drivers is prohibited;
 - 3.2. Where the student has not rectified their behaviour, the driver may attempt to work with the parents to resolve the matter when possible.
 - 3.3. Where the attempt to resolve the matter with the student and his/her parents has not rectified the student's behaviour, the driver will report the matter to the Principal and Transportation Coordinator making use of Form 321-1 School Bus Misconduct Report.
 - 3.4. The driver must document the inappropriate behaviour and all actions that have been taken beyond that of informal discussions
4. For extreme discipline matters like assault, fighting, weapons, explosives, flammable materials, or anything of a dangerous nature where passenger health and safety has been compromised, the driver must:
 - 4.1. Immediately refer the matter to the principal for action and notification to parent/guardian; and
 - 4.2. Advise the Transportation Coordinator, as soon as possible.
5. The principal of the school where the student is registered will take the appropriate action to deal with the student misconduct. This may include contacting the parent/guardian(s), school suspension, suspension of school bus rider privileges or other disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate by the principal. The school principal shall complete and forward a copy of the report to the driver and send a copy of the same report to the Transportation Coordinator.
6. Only the principal may suspend a student from riding a school bus. Where suspension from the school bus is for longer than five (5) days, this recommendation will be referred to the Superintendent.
7. The principal shall be responsible for ensuring that bus loading zones at school sites are supervised.