

## **HOPKINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUS CONDUCT RULES**

### **NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS:**

We are pleased to offer school bus privileges to Hopkinton students. Please be aware that the school bus is an extension of the school, and rules regarding behavior are the same as in the school. School bus safety is a primary concern of the Hopkinton Public Schools and we reserve the right to take whatever action is necessary to maintain a high level of safety.

The right of a student to school bus transportation is a qualified right, dependent on good behavior. In cases where a student seriously or continuously misbehaves, the principal or designee of the student's school will notify parents. The principal may revoke the bus pass such action is necessary for the safety and well being of other students. In cases where the driver assesses that a student's conduct jeopardizes the safety and well being of other students, that student may be immediately excluded from the bus.

All eligible and fee-based students will be issued a bus pass, which they must show to the driver each day upon entering the bus. The pass entitles students a school bus ride to and from school. In the event a student loses a bus pass, a duplicate pass may be obtained from the Transportation Office for a \$5.00 fee (check or money order).

A student who pays a fee for transportation and whose riding privileges are suspended because of violation of these rules will not receive a fee refund.

### **STUDENTS WHO RIDE A SCHOOL BUS ARE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

1. A student who allows another student to use his/her bus pass or sells his/her bus pass may have his/her bus pass privileges revoked.
2. Students may not bring large art projects or instruments (e.g., cello), animals, pets, or large objects on the school bus. Lunch boxes, smaller musical instruments and small athletic equipment (that which can easily be transported on a student's lap or under the seat) must be kept out of the aisle.
3. Students shall stand on the sidewalk or another designated place while waiting for the school bus. They shall respect other people's property and respect the right of other people to pass on the sidewalk.
4. Students should not annoy the driver or distract him/her attention from driving. The bus driver has full authority and responsibility for control of student conduct while they are on the bus. Drivers should be treated with courtesy and respect.
5. Students shall never approach a school bus until it has completely stopped and the door is opened. In boarding the bus, they should proceed in an orderly, single file line.
6. Younger students should board and alight first from the bus.
7. In crossing the roadway after alighting from the bus, students should cross only in front of the bus when the blinking lights are on and the stop sign is extended. Pass at least 10 feet in front of the bus and look for traffic in both directions before crossing the roadway.
8. Never run beside a bus, chase after a bus, or pick up anything that has fallen near the wheels of a bus.
9. Students shall not open windows without permission. Do not throw anything out of the window. Do not put your hands, arms or any parts of your body out of the window at anytime.
10. Do not open the rear exit emergency door unless there is an emergency or the driver directs you.

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11. There shall be no pushing or striking others, general fooling around, or use of profane or abusive language.
12. Students may not vandalize, destroy, or deface any part of the bus.
13. Students who witness the destruction of property have a responsibility to report such misbehavior to the driver or school authorities.
14. There is no smoking, eating, or drinking on the school bus.
15. Under no circumstances should drugs, alcohol or related items, firearms, explosives, knives, or weapons be brought onto a school bus.