



POLICY SECTION 809: School Bus Discipline / Driver Responsibility

POLICY

The Ahkwasahsne Mohawk Board of Education believes that the school bus driver is responsible for maintaining passenger control at all times to ensure student safety. Distractions on the bus caused by student misconduct could distract the driver and result in an accident. Therefore, the Board requires that the Transportation Supervisor develop an annual training program for drivers on behavioural intervention techniques for students.

GUIDELINES

1. Drivers should keep in mind that their primary responsibility is to drive students safely to and from school. The driver must let the students know what is expected from them. The students are then responsible for their behaviour on the bus.
2. It is not necessary for a problem to become habitual before it is reported. More than one verbal warning is usually unnecessary. Reporting of a problem should be considered a request for the student to correct his/her behaviour on the bus and a strong notice to the student that the problem will not be allowed to continue. If the student does not make a behaviour change, a second report shall be filed.
3. All reports shall be filed on Incident Report Forms provided by the Transportation Supervisor. Drivers must report all disciplinary action taken.
4. All Incident Report Forms shall be delivered to the Principal of the school no later than the next school day after the incident has occurred. Promptness in reporting is essential in correcting behaviour problems.
5. Drivers may be required to meet with school staff and parents when necessary to attempt to work out problems that may exist on a bus route.
6. A driver may not suspend a child from riding the bus. The decision to suspend the riding privileges of a student can only be made by the School Principal and the Transportation Supervisor. If a suspension is deemed warranted, the Principal will deliver a copy of the suspension notice and suggestions for modification of pupil behaviour to the parents, the Transportation Supervisor, and bus driver. The Transportation Supervisor, who, in consultation with the School Principal, will contact parents to notify them of the incident and the resulting suspension.
7. If an incident occurs on the final trip of the day, the report should be filed the following morning on completion of the first run. However, if the incident requires the immediate suspension of a student, the driver must notify the Transportation Supervisor, who, in consultation with the School Principal, will contact parents to notify them of the incident and the resulting suspension.