

TRANSPORTATION - STUDENT PERSONAL ITEMS

Background

In accordance with the Traffic Safety Act, the driver shall ensure that all student personal items (band instruments, luggage, equipment, personal effects, tools) carried on a bus are transported in accordance with this procedure.

Procedures

1. The driver shall be responsible for administering these procedures.
2. The Director of Transportation shall deal with appeals regarding these procedures.
3. Teachers assigning Career and Technology Studies (CTS), Career and Technology Foundations (CTF), science fair, or other project-based work are responsible for informing students and parents/guardians of the transportation limitations outlined in Section 8. Specifically, they must ensure families understand that only items meeting the bus safety requirements may be transported and that alternative arrangements are required for items that do not comply.
4. Personal items may be carried in the interior of the bus if they:
 - 4.1 Are stored under the seats where possible,
 - 4.2 Do not block the aisles or emergency exits, and
 - 4.3 Are stored, lodged or secured in such a manner so that they cannot be dislodged or move about when the brakes of the bus are applied, during acceleration of the bus or in the event of a collision involving the bus.
5. Skates are permitted, providing that blade guards protect the blades or are carried in a tote bag and placed under the student's seat.
6. Equipment such as skis, snowboards, skateboards, or any item that cannot fit under the seats are not allowed. When schools are planning field/extracurricular trips requiring the transport of this type of equipment, arrangements must be made to have a van or truck haul the equipment separately.
7. Curling brooms and hockey sticks are permitted, provided that they can be secured so that they cannot be dislodged when the bus brakes are applied.
8. Career and Technology Studies (CTS), Career and Technology Foundations (CTF), science fair, or other school project items are only permitted on the bus if they can be safely held on the student's lap without obstructing other students, the aisle, or emergency exits. Items that are large, fragile, or cannot be secured safely under the seat or on the lap of the student must be transported by alternate means.

9. The following identifies specific instruments allowed/not allowed:
 - 9.1 Instruments must either be transported on the floor under the seat, or held in the student's lap without interfering with other students in the seat.
 - 9.2 The instrument is not to be stood on end and/or protruding into the area above the seat back, nor is it to protrude into the aisle.
 - 9.3 It may be necessary to change the assigned seat of the student with the instrument, (i.e. away from a heater or wheel well, move to reduce load/unload time).
 - 9.4 Storage and removal of the instrument will require the cooperation of the other student(s) in the seat.
 - 9.5 Small instruments that may be carried on the student's lap include:
 - 9.5.1 Flute
 - 9.5.2 Clarinet
 - 9.5.3 Bells
 - 9.5.4 Percussion Sticks, Drum Pad (must be in a proper bag or case)
 - 9.6 Instruments that fit under the seat and can be transported on a bus include:
 - 9.6.1 Alto Saxophone
 - 9.6.2 Tenor Saxophone
 - 9.6.3 Bass Clarinet (may not fit under the seat on some models of buses)
 - 9.6.4 Trombone
 - 9.6.5 Trumpet
 - 9.7 Instruments that will not fit under the seat and should not be transported include:
 - 9.7.1 Baritone Saxophone
 - 9.7.2 Bass Trombone
 - 9.7.3 French Horn
 - 9.7.4 Guitar
 - 9.7.5 Tuba
10. Aisles and exits shall be kept clear at all times.
11. No person shall convey in or on the bus:
 - 11.1 Animals
 - 11.2 Firearms
 - 11.3 Explosives
 - 11.4 Flammable materials or substances
 - 11.5 Fuel, other than in the fuel system and fuel tank of the bus
 - 11.6 Anything of a dangerous or objectionable nature, or that might endanger the lives or safety of persons in the bus.
12. No passengers shall play or use any electronic device that is capable of producing sound unless using earphones. Any device that is operated with the use of earphones shall be operated at a level that ensures the sound does not affect other passengers nor interfere with the driver's ability to communicate with students on the bus. All electronic devices inside the bus shall be under the immediate control of the driver.

Reference: Section 52, 53, 59, Education Act
Traffic Safety Act
Student Transportation Regulation 96/2019