



NAZARETH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Bus Discipline Procedures and Consequences

Safety is a major concern of the Nazareth Area School District Transportation Department. In cooperation with our Transportation Contractor, we develop proper bus riding behaviors to promote the safety of our students. The tables below classify unsatisfactory behavior into various levels with consequences dependent upon the severity and frequency of the behavior.

Students are under the authority of the bus driver while being transported to and from school, field trips, athletic events and various club competitions. The lives of the students and drivers are at stake, and no misconduct will be tolerated that jeopardizes safe travel. Any serious infraction of rules will be reported by the driver in a timely manner and appropriate actions will be taken. Consequences will be initiated by the building Principal/Assistant Principal and shared with the parent/guardian. Parents may call the Principal/Assistant Principal if they have any questions or concerns regarding behavior and/or discipline.

Level 1 - These offenses include but are not limited to, the following:

<u>Misbehaviors</u>	<u>Consequences</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Failure to follow drivers' directions● Not sitting in your assigned seat● Failure to stay seated (including standing, moving from seat to seat, not facing forward) while bus is moving● Boarding/Exiting at other than designated stop and/or in a disruptive manner● Riding unassigned buses without prior permission from a School Administrator● Eating, drinking, gum chewing, on the bus● Littering on the bus● Distracting driver by making unnecessary noise or by acting in a disruptive manner● Throwing item to another student or out of the window● Misconduct at the bus stop (such as running into the road, crossing behind the bus instead of safely in front, fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bus driver will notify student of inappropriate behavior and may change student's seat● Bus drivers may submit a Bus Incident Report Form to Jennings Transportation, reviewed and sent to the Building Administrator and Transportation Department for investigation of the incident.● Warning letter or phone call to parent(s)/guardian(s)● Disciplinary action at school level● Repeated offenses may result in bus riding privileges suspended for a specific number of days.

Level 2 - These offenses put the safety of the bus and its passengers in immediate danger. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

<p><u>Misbehaviors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vandalism ● Interfering with the bus or tampering with bus equipment ● Insubordination with continued non-compliance ● Fighting ● Possession or use of any tobacco products (smoke and smokeless) ● Using abusive language, profanity, or making inappropriate gestures ● Throwing item out of the bus window ● Carrying any object which may be used to inflict injury on another student 	<p><u>Consequences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bus driver will notify student of inappropriate behavior and may change student's seat ● Bus driver may bring students back to their school for building Administrator to immediately address unruly behaviors ● Bus driver submits a Bus Incident Report Form to Jennings Transportation, reviewed and sent to the Building Administrator and Transportation Department for investigation of the incident. ● Vandalism may require restitution ● Disciplinary action at school level ● Repeated offenses may result in bus riding privileges suspended for a specific number of days.
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Level 3 - These offenses are of extreme danger and include, but are not limited to, the following:

<p><u>Severe Misbehaviors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Possession, consumption, sale, distribution, transfer, or being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol ● Physical attack on the bus driver ● Hitting the driver with a thrown object ● Tampering with or operating the emergency exit while the bus is in motion/Tampering with bus controls. ● Endangerment to the health, safety, and welfare of the students and/or bus driver. ● Tampering with the emergency exit or exiting the bus via that door 	<p><u>Consequences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bus riding privileges suspended for a specific number of days. ● Immediately referred to the Superintendent / Assistant Superintendent ● Parent/guardian will be notified and entitled to a hearing to discuss the matter ● Possible suspension or expulsion proceedings ● Restitution for damages ● At any level, law enforcement officials may be contacted if deemed appropriate by the School Administration.
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Procedure for reporting passenger misconduct:

- The bus driver will report misconduct occurring on the school bus to Jennings Transportation Office Administrator.
- Jennings Transportation will notify the Transportation Department and the Building Principal/Assistant Principal via phone call and/or an emailed incident report.
- If a student shares information pertaining to student misconduct on the bus with a teacher or other staff member, the school Principal/Assistant Principal will be notified for action.
- Depending on the level of misconduct and/or frequency of the offense, the Principal/Assistant Principal will hold a conference with the student, may issue consequences and may contact parents/guardians.
- Parents may contact the building Principal/Assistant Principal with any questions regarding behavior and/or discipline.

Transporting of students to and from school and/or school sponsored activities is a vital part of the Nazareth Area School District's role in providing education for our students. The fundamental goal of the Transportation Department is to provide reliable and safe transportation for all students residing in areas served by the School District.

Good behavior on the part of students while being transported contributes positively to the effectiveness, efficiency, and safety of the School District's transportation program. Therefore, it is important for parents/guardians and students to understand that the student behavior code set by the School District is applicable to students while being transported via school buses.

While our schools are concerned about good behavior for various reasons, another factor is involved when we talk of good behavior on the school bus. That factor is SAFETY. Inappropriate and potentially dangerous behavior by students on school buses is one of the greatest threats to the safety of students and bus drivers. The ability of school bus drivers to drive defensively, to be alert to all driving hazards, and to make quick decisions is often dependent on orderly and well behaved student passengers.

It is evident that high standards of good behavior must be maintained at all times in order for drivers to perform their work well. Nazareth Area School District is committed to transporting students in a safe and orderly manner. To accomplish this, student riders are expected to follow school district rules for waiting at a school bus stop and rules for riding on a school bus.