

## ASPEN ACADEMY

*Adopted: (though not implemented) April 15, 2008*

*Revised: July 20, 2010*

### **709 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY POLICY**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

In the case that Aspen Academy should, at a future date, choose to implement student busing, the purpose of this policy is to provide safe transportation for students and to educate students on safety issues and the responsibilities of school bus ridership.

#### **II. PLAN FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING**

##### **A. School Bus Safety Week**

The school may designate a school bus safety week. The National School Bus Safety Week is the third full week in October.

##### **B. Student Training**

1. The school shall provide students enrolled in grades kindergarten (K) through 8 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:
  - a. transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
  - b. school policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
  - c. appropriate conduct while on the bus;
  - d. the danger zones surrounding a school bus;
  - e. procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
  - f. procedures for safe vehicle lane crossing; and
  - g. school bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.

2. All students in grades K through 8 who may ride a school bus, even only occasionally during the school year, will receive the school bus safety training.
3. The school will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.

### **III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR**

- A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school's general student behavior rules are in effect for students on school buses.
- B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the Aspen Academy Director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules. Riding the bus is considered an extension of the school day. Policies that apply to student behavior at school, also apply on the bus and at the bus stop. The school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the school's discipline procedures are to be followed. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the school bus driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to the school's office.

2. Consequences

- a. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extracurricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges. Consequences may include, but are not limited to: parent meeting, suspension of bus riding privileges, or expulsion from riding the bus.

(1.) Other Discipline

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or

expulsion from school also may result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

(2.) Records

Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that causes an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property will be provided by the school to the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.

(3.) Vandalism/Bus Damage

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.

(4.) Notice

School bus and bus stop rules will be reviewed with students annually.

(5.) Criminal Conduct

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, possession or vandalism), the appropriate school personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

#### **IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT**

A. Parent and Guardian Notification

Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.

B. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities for Transportation Safety

Parents/Guardians are responsible to:

1. Become familiar with school rules, policies, regulations and the principles of school bus safety, and thoroughly review them with their children;
2. Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions;
3. Communicate safety concerns to their school administrators;

4. Monitor bus stops, if possible;
5. Have their children to the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives;
6. Have their children properly dressed for the weather; and
7. Have a plan in case the bus is late.

#### **V. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – FOR BUSES OWNED, LEASED OR CONTRACTED BY SCHOOL**

- A. All school bus drivers should have proper Minnesota licensure for the vehicle driven.
- B. The school shall ask hired bus companies to conduct mandatory drug and alcohol testing of all school bus drivers in accordance with state and federal law and school policy.

#### **VI. OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES – FOR BUSES OWNED, LEASED OR CONTRACTED BY SCHOOL**

##### A. General Operating Rules

1. School buses shall be operated in accordance with state traffic and school bus safety laws and the procedures contained in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.
2. A student will only be transported on his or her assigned school bus unless prior arrangements have been made in writing by the student's parent or guardian and the adult responsible for picking the child up from the non-assigned school bus. The number of students or other authorized passengers transported in a school bus shall not be more than the legal capacity for the bus. No person shall be allowed to stand when the bus is in motion.
3. The parent/guardian may designate, pursuant to school policy, a day care facility, respite care facility, the residence of a relative or the residence of a person chosen by the parent or guardian as the address of the student for transportation purposes. The address must be in the attendance area of the assigned school and meet all other eligibility requirements.