

## RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT

### MEMO

DATE: July 26, 2022  
TO: Parents or Guardians of students in Sleepy Eye Schools  
FROM: Mr. John Cselovszki, Superintendent of District #84, 794-7903  
Pat Stevermer, Bus Safety Transportation Director, 794-7873  
ABOUT: Bus Safety information

According to the Minnesota School Bus Safety law, **riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right.** Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding school buses as are expected on school property or at school activities, functions or events. All school rules are in effect while a student is riding the bus or at the bus stop whether for regular daily transportation, extra-curricular activities, field trips or community education trips. **Please note: A hand written note from the parent or guardian of the student will need to be given to the bus driver in order to ride a different bus or be a guest of a child on that bus. If a note is not provided, the child will not be able to ride the bus.**

Students (and adults) who walk to school or arrive by car are asked to **use the crosswalks** where the school patrol is monitoring the intersection. Motor vehicles should also observe the No Parking signs between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on school days due to the number of bus shuttles that use the area. Cars are requested to stay out of the area where buses load and unload. For those who violate the signs or this procedure, a ticket can be issued by the local police department.

St. Mary's students can be picked up in the school parking lot. Vehicles should not park in front of the school which is reserved for bus drop off.

Parents of Sleepy Eye Elementary School students should go to the south end of the elementary building on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW (between Summit St SW and Burnside St SW) to drop off and pick up children. Do not use the parking lot for drop off and pick up as it is a safety hazard when children are walking between cars and people wanting to leave are unable to get out of the lot.

Bus safety training will be given during the first month of classes for students preschool through 10<sup>th</sup> grade. All school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the Building Principal. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the Building Principal. Serious misconduct will be reported to the Department of Public Safety and may be reported to local law enforcement.

If you have a concern about behavior on the bus or a driver, please contact the bus company immediately rather than wait until the end of the year. No problem is minor.

# **School District #84**

## **Rules at the Bus Stop**

### **2022-2023 School Year**

1. Get to your bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
2. **If you plan to ride a different bus or be a guest on a bus, you need a hand written note from your parent or guardian to give to the driver when you board the bus. If a note is not provided, the child will not be able to ride the bus.**
3. Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
4. Use arms, legs and belongings appropriately.
5. Use appropriate language.
6. Stay away from the street, road or highway when waiting for the bus. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
7. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
8. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you BEFORE crossing the street.
9. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
10. No use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs.
11. No throwing of objects at vehicles passing by.

## **Rules on the bus**

1. Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
2. Sit in your seat facing forward.
3. No standing in aisles or on seats while the bus is stopped or in motion.
4. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
5. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
6. Use arms, legs and belongings appropriately.
7. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
8. Do not throw any object.
9. No eating or drinking on the school day bus routes.
10. No use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs on the bus.
11. Do not bring any weapon or dangerous objects on the school bus.
12. Do not damage the school bus.
13. Students K-6 sit in front of the wheel well of the bus.
14. Be respectful of other students and belongings.
15. No flash photography on evening routes will be allowed.

## **Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct:**

1. First offense will result in a letter being sent to the parents from the Sleepy Eye Bus Service.
2. Second offense will result in a minimum **suspension of five school days** of bus service for the student(s) responsible.
3. Third offense will result in a denial of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the year. A conference is set up with the parents, student, school administrator and Sleepy Eye Bus Service representative, if needed.
4. Physical violence between students or a weapons violation will result in automatic suspension.