

## EXCELL ACADEMY TRANSPORTATION POLICY

*Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right!*

Dear Parent /Guardian:

A safe school bus ride to and from school is a result of all students and parents/guardians understanding and practicing a few simple school bus safety rules. It is important and helpful if parents work with the school in teaching your child these rules.

If your child is suspended from the school bus, this suspension includes field trips as well as regular transportation to and from school. Your child will be required to complete a school bus safety program issued by the school to insure that he/she knows and understands 1) bus riding is a privilege, not a right and it can be taken away, 2) school policies for student conduct and school bus safety, 3) safe and appropriate conduct while on the school bus, 4) procedures for safely boarding or leaving the school bus, 5) procedures for safe street or road crossing, and 6) school bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.

### **While Waiting For The Bus Students Are Expected To:**

- Arrive at the stop FIVE minutes before the school bus is scheduled to arrive. The bus driver is not allowed to wait for late students, nor will the bus be sent back for late students who miss their bus.
- Stay back from the curb. Do not play on neighbor's property, or hang from their trees.
- When you see the school coming down the street, line up in a single file line. NO pushing or shoving while boarding the school bus.

### **On The Bus:**

- Always hold the hand rail as you board, the stairs may be slippery. Find a seat on the school bus and sit facing forward. Always keep your books and backpack on your lap.
- Opening, closing, or adjusting of window will only be done with the permission of the bus driver.

### **Always Follow The Bus Driver's Instructions:**

- Keep noise level down while riding the school bus. Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Fighting, spitting, teasing, wrestling, throwing objects, or littering will not be tolerated.
- Respect others and their personal property.
- Students are responsible for vandalism and will be responsible for restitution to the school.

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### Who Can Ride:

- Each family must have a transportation request form on file before services can be established.
- Busses are for Excell Academy students that are registered to ride the bus ONLY. In some cases other students can obtain a temporary bus pass from authorized personnel with written consent from a parent.
- Parents may ride ONLY with prior consent from school.

### Transportation A Privilege Not A Right: Mn Statue 121A.59

Transportation by school bus is a privilege not a right. A student's eligibility to ride a school bus may be revoked for violation of school bus safety or conduct policies, or for violation of any other law governing student behavior on a school bus, pursuant to a written school district discipline policy. Revocation of a student's bus riding privilege is not an exclusion, expulsion, or suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Revocation procedures for a student who is an individual with a disability under the Individuals with Disability Education Act, US Code, title 20, section 1400 et seq., section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1073, US Code, title 29, section 794, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336, are governed by these provisions.

### SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES

All Excell Academy students are expected to follow the rules at all times to insure a safe and happy bus ride for all.

- Stay seated on bus at all times.
- Stay back 10 feet from roadway while waiting to load bus.
- Students must line up in one single file before loading bus.
- Keep hands at feet to yourself.
- Talk quietly.
- Do not tamper with safety equipment.
- No fighting, swearing, or yelling on the bus.
- No eating or drinking on the bus.
- Keep hands and articles inside of bus at all times.
- Windows may not be opened more than ½ ways.
- Follow the instructions of the bus driver and respect the driver and the bus.

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### **Consequences for not following rules are as follows:**

First Infraction: (depending on severity) verbal and written warning given to student.

Second Infraction: (depending on severity) verbal and written warning and parent notification.

Third Infraction: Suspension from bus for 1 – 3 days.

Fourth Infraction: Suspension from bus for 3 – 5 days.

Fifth Infraction: Suspension from bus for 5 days - loss of privileges.

1 – 3 day suspension includes but not limited to:

- Changing seats while bus is moving
- Throwing objects on bus
- Eating on bus
- Shouting, screaming , yelling or excessive noise
- Possession of squirt guns, balloons, etc.
- Horseplay
- Harassment or bullying of another student
- Failure to follow drivers instructions

3 – 5 day suspension includes but not limited to:

- Putting body parts and other objects out of windows
- Tampering with safety equipment
- Threatening school bus driver
- Bringing dangerous object on the school bus(other than explosives, weapons, or flammables)
- Pushing or shoving another student
- Vandalism of bus property
- Theft of another students property
- Fighting

5 day and beyond suspension includes but not limited to:

- Possession of a handgun, knife, explosive, flammable liquid or any other weapon
- Assault against the school bus driver
- Violent assault of another student
- Attempting to ride on the outside of the bus

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Parents share the responsibility with the child for his/her conduct while on the bus and in the school bus loading and unloading areas. Remember that riding the school bus is a privilege and not a right. Any other behavior which creates a dangerous situation for the safety of others will result in an automatic five (5) day suspension from riding the bus. If negative behavior continues, the students bus privileges will be removed. Good conduct is always the first rule to safety.

All transportation concerns should be brought to the schools attention first. Parents may not harass the bus driver or any such employee of the bus company.

In some cases, such as adverse weather conditions, busses may run late, but they should not run early. If the bus misses your stop, please call Ms. Dunbar at (763) 533-0500 ext. 121 immediately.

### **TRANSPORTATION BOUNDARIES**

Excell Academy has changed its transportation boundaries starting this school year 08/09, to better serve its student population. The new boundaries are as follow:

NORTH: 114<sup>th</sup> Ave in Champlin

SOUTH: 36<sup>th</sup> Ave in Crystal

EAST: Hwy 94 / W. River Rd(CR 12)

WEST: Hwy 169

This includes the cities of Champlin, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Crystal, New Hope, North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale. If you live outside of these boundaries please contact school official to determine what might be the closest stop for you.