TRANSPORTATION PLAN – STUDENT SAFETY

It is the goal of the school district to provide safe, comfortable and reliable transportation for bus-riding school children.

1. Emergency Procedures

a) Mechanical breakdown

In the event of a mechanical breakdown, the driver will:

1) Stop the vehicle in a safe location

2) Keep passengers in the vehicle, if it is safe to do so

3) Take steps to warn motorists, by activating hazard lights and placing emergency triangles

4) Radio or call for assistance

b) Injuries/Medical Emergencies

If a student is seriously injured or suffers from a medical emergency, the driver will stop the vehicle at the first safe opportunity. The driver will provide emergency medical assistance in accordance with the driver's first aid training. The driver will notify the school district of the emergency using the radio or other communication equipment. The district will then summon emergency medical services by immediately calling 911 and notify administrative personnel.

2. Severe Weather

1) Tornadoes

If the driver determines that there is likelihood that a tornado will hit the vehicle, and there is not an escape route available or time to drive to a safe location, the driver will evacuate the vehicle, taking only the first aid kit. The driver will take the students to the basement of a nearby building or to the nearest depression or ditch upwind (toward the storm) of the vehicle far enough away from the vehicle so that it will not roll over on the students. The driver should instruct students to cover their heads with their arms. If the students are wearing coats or jackets, they can be used to provide additional

protection for their heads and bodies. If there is no time to evacuate the students after stopping the vehicle, the driver should have the students remain in their seats and assume a protective position with their heads below window level.

2) Winter Weather

If the school district or driver determines that a trip is too dangerous to drive due to winter weather conditions, the district will cancel the trip.

Parents should ensure that students are appropriately dressed for winter conditions.

c) Weapons, Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Contraband

If a driver discovers that a passenger may have a weapon, hazardous substance or other dangerous contraband on the vehicle, he or she should remain calm and call for assistance. The driver should not inform passengers of the presence of the weapon or other contraband.

d) Terroristic Threat

If a driver receives a terroristic threat that he or she deems credible, he or she will notify the school district of the threat using the radio or other communication equipment. After consulting with school officials, the driver will determine whether the threat requires evacuation of the bus. The school will promptly notify the authorities of the threat.

For purposes of this policy, a terroristic threat is a threat to commit any crime of violence or to burn or damage property with the purpose of terrorizing another or of causing the evacuation of the bus or in reckless disregard of causing such terror or inconvenience.

e) Emergency Incident Reports

Drivers will provide written documentation of any of the emergency events specified in this policy by completing the incident form attached hereto. This documentation must be submitted to the school administration within 24 hours of the event.

3. Evacuation of Students with Disabilities

The Transportation supervisor, in consultation with bus drivers and members of the administrative team, shall develop a written emergency evacuation plan for each bus route. The plan shall include an assessment of each student's

ability to evacuate himself or herself as well as his or her ability to assist others. Disabled students should practice their evacuation skills as required of their non-disables peers if possible during evacuation drills. Students or other individuals who will be assisting disabled students evacuate during emergencies should practice this skill during evacuation drills. Drivers or students who will be assisting with the evacuation process should be familiar with any equipment on the bus that would aid in the actual evacuation.

4. Student Behavior on School Vehicles

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in school vehicles.

a) Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:

1) Students must obey the driver promptly.

2) Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.

3) Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment or horseplay.

4) Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.

5) Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.

6) Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.

7) Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.

8) Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items or animals onto the vehicle.

9) Students may carry on conversation in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.

10) Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.

11) Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident.

12) Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.

13) Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.

14) Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.

15) Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

b) Consequences

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include:

1) Note home to parents

2) Suspension of bus riding privileges

3) Exclusion from extracurricular activities

4) In-school suspension

5) Short term or long term suspension from school

6) Expulsion

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

c) Records

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Adopted: September 12, 2011