

## **502.1.3A School Bus Rules and Regulations**

### **1. Behaviour on the Bus**

- In order for students to have a safe and pleasant ride on the bus, students must follow the rules of conduct. The bus is an extension of the classroom and school officials will deal with misconduct.
- It is the primary responsibility of the bus driver to transport students safely to and from school. The bus driver's attention must be on the road and traffic conditions and not on student behaviour.
- Video cameras may be used on buses for discipline and safety purposes only
- Below are some of the students' responsibilities:
  - Follow the directions of the bus driver
  - Only quiet conversation is permitted
  - Students are to remain seated while the bus is in motion and are not to extend any part of their body out of the windows
  - Standees are not permitted on yellow school buses
  - Students may be assigned to specific seats
- Students who vandalize a bus will be held responsible for the cost of repairs and may lose their riding privileges
- Southland guidelines advise that students should not be allowed to eat on the bus because the driver may not be able to hear a child if he/she is choking. Students may not eat or drink on the bus (including soft drinks, candy and gum). Exceptions may be permitted when Division staff are present with students such as when on a field trip.
- Scuffling, fighting, harassment of other students, smoking, use of obscene language and throwing objects in and out of the bus are prohibited
- Conveyance, using or being under the influence of alcohol or, other controlled substances is prohibited
- The possession, use or conveyance of potentially dangerous items is prohibited

### **2. Possible Consequences Administered by School Officials:**

- Written notification of infraction sent to the school – Parents notified
- 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction – 1 day suspension from riding the bus
- 3<sup>rd</sup> infraction – 3 day suspension from riding the bus
- 4<sup>th</sup> infraction – 5 day suspension from riding the bus

**502.1.3A School Bus Rules and Regulations, cont'd**

- 5<sup>th</sup> infraction – possible expulsion from riding the bus  
“Some steps may be omitted depending on the severity of the infraction.”

**3. Parents on Buses:**

- Parents are not allowed on regular school bus runs. Harassing the bus driver or other bussed students is a serious offense which can be reported to the Lethbridge Regional Police Service (LRPS).

**4. Lost and Found Items:**

- Lost and found items are left on the bus for approximately one week and then turned into the Southland Transportation office. Please call (587) 425-4245.

**5. Bus Stops:**

- Students are requested to be at their stop at least five (5) minutes prior to the bus arrival. Bus drivers are not required to wait for students who are tardy in arriving at their stop as it alters the bus schedules. The bus will not leave the school until six (6) minutes after students have been dismissed.
- Do not cross in front of the bus when exiting. Cross the street at marked crosswalks or intersections after the bus has pulled away.
- Transportation is provided for eligible students from a designated pickup to and from school only (not to babysitters/day cares, music lessons, job related activities, sport events, etc.)
- Drivers are not responsible for students who get off at stops other than their designated stop, or students who catch a route which is not their designated route
- Only eligible students, bus drivers or authorized persons may ride the bus. Friends of eligible students will not be allowed to ride the bus. (eg. play dates, birthday parties, etc.)

**6. Inclement Weather:**

- News releases will be provided to local radio stations if and when the school division decides a school closure will take place. School closures will also be posted to the jurisdiction website. In the case of a midday decision (early dismissal) parents must be notified as students cannot be sent home if arrangements have not been made for after school care. If parents cannot be contacted, students will be dismissed at the regular dismissal time.

**502.1.3A School Bus Rules and Regulations, cont'd**

**7. Large Items on Buses:**

- Section 15(1) of Schedule 1 of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation, which deals with the carrying of luggage, equipment and tools (such as band instruments, sports equipment), states that the above items shall not be carried in the interior of a school bus unless they can be stored under the seat, do not block aisles or emergency exits, cannot be dislodged when the brakes of the school bus are applied or in the event of an accident involving the school bus. The bus driver is responsible for ensuring that items are transported in accordance with this section.
- As the following items cannot be secured they will not be allowed on the school bus:
  - Tubas, saxophones, French horns, trombones, etc.
  - Skate boards, skis, hockey sticks, scooters, large hockey bags, curling brooms, suitcases with wheels, large shop projects, etc.
- Students may only carry their school items which can be held safely on their laps or securely wedged under their seat, so as not to intrude into another students space or to protrude out into the aisle..

**8. Bus Route Maps:**

- Bus route maps can be found on the Division website at: [www.southland.ca/lethbridge](http://www.southland.ca/lethbridge)

**9. For Additional Information:**

For additional information, please contact: Cheryl  
Shimbashi  
Transportation Coordinator  
Lethbridge School Division  
(403) 380-5303  
or email to: [cheryl.shimbashi@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:cheryl.shimbashi@lethsd.ab.ca)