

Adopted: August 14, 2014
Revised: August 8, 2016
Reviewed: November 13, 2023

COMMUNITY OF PEACE ACADEMY POLICY No. 5.5.7 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION AND SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish expectations and policies concerning the safe transportation of Community of Peace Academy students to and from school.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of Community of Peace Academy to comply with state law regarding student transportation and school bus safety.

III. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Transportation by school bus is a privilege not a right for an eligible student. A student's eligibility to ride a school bus may be revoked for a violation of school bus safety or conduct policies, or for violation of any other law governing student conduct on a school bus. Revocation of a student's bus-riding privilege is not an exclusion, expulsion, or suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. For a student who is an individual with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, United States Code, title 20, section 1400 et seq., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, United States Code, title 29, section 794, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336, revocation of the student's eligibility to ride the school bus must be consistent with the requirements of those laws.

IV. TRANSPORTATION ELECTION/OPTION

Community of Peace Academy provides transportation to students residing within the geographical boundaries of Saint Paul, Minnesota. At the time a student enrolls in Community of Peace Academy, the school will provide the parent with information regarding transportation. The scheduling of routes, manner and method of transportation, control, and discipline of the pupils, and any other matter relating to the transportation of pupils shall be within the sole discretion, control, and management of the district.

V. SAFETY TRAINING

Community of Peace Academy will provide school bus safety training as required by Minnesota law and this policy.

A. Community of Peace Academy will provide its students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 10 with age-appropriate school bus safety training covering the following concepts:

1. Transportation by school bus is a privilege and not a right;
2. Policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
3. Appropriate conduct while on the school bus;
4. The danger zones surrounding a school bus;
5. Procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
6. Procedures for safe street or road crossing; and
7. School bus evacuation.

B. Timing of Training

1. **Kindergarten through grade 6 enrolled during weeks one to two:** Students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 6 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training competencies by the end of the third week of school. Students in kindergarten through third grade must receive the school bus safety training twice each school year. Community of Peace Academy may also provide kindergarten pupils with bus safety training before the first day of school.
2. **Grades 7 through 10 enrolled during weeks one to two:** Students enrolled in grades 7-10 during the first or second week of school who have not previously received school bus safety training must receive the training or receive bus safety instructional materials by the end of the sixth week of school.
3. Students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 10, enrolling after the second week of school and are transported by school bus and who have not received training in their previous school district shall undergo school bus safety training or receive bus safety instructional materials within four weeks of the first day of attendance.
4. **Accommodations for Safety Training:** Community of Peace Academy will make reasonable accommodations for the school bus safety training of pupils known to speak English as a second language and pupils with disabilities.

VI. PROCEDURES TO BE DEVELOPED

- A. The Community of Peace Academy Family Handbook outlines procedures for the transportation of students and pupil transportation safety. The procedures include
1. Provisions for appropriate student bus safety;
 2. Rules governing student conduct on school buses and in school bus loading and unloading areas;
 3. A statement of parent or guardian responsibilities relating to school bus safety;
 4. A system for reporting school bus accidents or misconduct and a system for dealing with local law enforcement officials in cases of criminal conduct on a school bus;
 5. Discipline practices to address violations of school bus safety rules, including procedures for revoking a student's bus riding privileges in cases of serious or repeated misconduct;
 6. A system for integrating school bus misconduct records with other discipline records;
 8. Operating rules and procedures; and
 9. Emergency procedures.
- B. Reportable offenses: A "Reportable offense" means misbehavior on a bus that causes an immediate and substantial danger to self or surrounding persons or property. The Executive Director, the school transportation safety director, or other designated school official shall immediately report to the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where the misbehavior occurred if the reporting school official knows or has reason to believe that a student has committed a reportable offense on a school bus or in a bus loading or unloading area. The reporting school official shall issue a report to the commissioner of public safety concerning the incident upon request of the commissioner.

VII. APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DIRECTOR

If Community of Peace Academy elects to provide transportation for its students, the Executive Director shall designate a school transportation safety director to oversee and implement pupil transportation safety policies. The transportation director shall have day-to-day responsibility for pupil transportation safety.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §124E.15 (Charter school law; Transportation)
Minn. Stat. §121A.59 (Bus Transportation general provisions)
Minn. Stat. §§123B.90 -.91 (School Bus Safety Training and
Transportation Director)
Minn. Stat. §169.4582 (Reportable Offenses)