

**STUDENTS – ACTIVITIES, BUS CONDUCT**

**1:0 CONDITIONS**

Students traveling by school bus to and from school are considered to be under the jurisdiction of the Fairhaven Public Schools, its School Committee, and administrative officials. Bus conduct and consequent safety problems resulting from bus conduct are, and should be, a major responsibility mutually shared between the Public Schools and the bus contractor(s).

**2:0 POLICY PURPOSE**

To authorize bus drivers and administrators within the school system to establish systems of control and supervision of students on buses in order to ensure safety and the proper implementation of the transportation function.

**3:0 POLICY STATEMENT**

By order of the School Committee, the bus driver and his/her aide/monitor are authorized and expected to supervise students while under their control in order to maintain discipline and ensure safety and efficiency. It is expected that the bus driver and the aide will maintain the discipline in the same manner that a classroom teacher is expected to assume these supervisory functions. A bus driver or his/her aide will report any serious misconduct to the principal or the vice-principal of the individual school, who will take appropriate action. The bus driver and/or the aide shall be considered an agent of the School Department while performing this supervisory function. Their first responsibility is the safe and efficient operation of the bus. The bus driver shall have discretionary authority to remove a student from a bus in transit when, in his opinion, the behavior of any student or group of students is so unruly as to make it a hazard to the remainder of the students on the bus.

**4:0 PROFESSIONAL ACTION DIRECTIONS**

4:1 The bus driver is expected to report directly to the principal or the vice-principal of each individual school for whom he serves as an agent while performing the transportation function for that school. The bus driver shall not only report any serious misconduct to the principal or vice-principal but shall immediately by telephone at the earliest opportunity inform them of any instances where students have been removed from the bus and made to walk while in transit for the safety of the remainder of the students. Such action shall be reported to the school office by name.

4:2 The principal shall assume the authority for the enforcement of all rules and procedures for proper bus conduct and shall immediately report to the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services and/or the transportation contractor any irresolvable issues relating to student conduct while on buses.

**Adopted:** September 19, 1974

Revised: August 13, 2003