

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENT MATERIALS

Administrative Directive

The Division recognizes that students will occasionally have a need to transport additional educational materials on school buses. These materials will be necessary for the ongoing instructional component of their educational program, and as such, are legitimately inside our transportation mandate. Transportation of these materials on division buses will be allowed subject to these guidelines determining what types of materials can be transported, what number should be allowed and the size of the materials themselves.

Procedures

1. Students are allowed to bring materials on the school bus that will fit comfortably onto their lap; this would include a reasonable amount of books, supplies or personal items. It is important to recognize that these materials should be contained in a backpack, but if that is not possible they should be limited to a number that the student can easily control.
2. The backpack that the student brings on to the bus, and that sits on their lap, should be of a reasonable size. Our guidelines would require that it be a maximum size of 10" by 13" in length and width and 22" in height. The purpose of these measurements is to ensure that backpack or "storage item" does not intrude on another student's space, extend into the aisle or go over the height of the seat in front of them.
3. The student is also allowed to bring one additional item on to the bus that can fit comfortably under the seat that they occupy. This item cannot hinder another student's foot space, nor intrude into the aisle.
4. There are some items that cannot be transported on buses. The following are examples only, and should not be viewed as the total list of those items; hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks, curling brooms, skate boards, hockey bags or large band instruments. Skates MUST have guards on the blades and be in a sports bag or backpack, plastic shopping bags are NOT permitted. It should be recognized that the intent of restricting these items is directly related to safety concerns, as well as, the space and comfort of all students.
5. In the event that a student attempts to bring items that are too large, unsafe, or too many in number onto the bus, the driver will ask the student to return them to their place of origin; either the home or the school site.
6. Students with diverse learning needs may need to bring specialized equipment onto the bus which would be approved through the Transportation Manager and Inclusive Learning Services.

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