

735 DIGITAL RECORDING ON SCHOOL BUSES

I. PURPOSE

The transportation of students to and from school is an important function of the school district, and transportation by the school district is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student. The behavior of students and employees on the bus is a significant factor in the safety and efficiency of school bus transportation. Student and employee misbehavior increases the potential risks of injury. Therefore, the school district believes that digitally recording student passengers and employees on the school bus will encourage good behavior and, as a result, promote safety. The purpose of this policy is to establish a school bus digital recording system.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Placement

1. Each and every school bus owned, leased, contracted and/or operated by the school district may be equipped with recording devices and conspicuously placed signs notifying riders that their conversations or actions may be recorded.

B. Use of Digital Recording

1. A digital recording of the actions of student passengers and/or employees may be used by the school district as evidence in any disciplinary action brought against any student or employee, arising out of the student's or employee's conduct on the bus and/or bus stop.
2. A digital recording will be released only in conformance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the rules and/or regulations promulgated thereunder.
3. Digital recordings will be viewed by school district personnel on a random basis and/or when discipline problems on the bus have been brought to the attention of the school district.
4. A digital recording will be retained by the school district until relooped or until the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings in which the digital recording is used for evidence.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.585 (Notice of Recording Device)
Minn. Stat. § 138.17 (Government Records, Administration)
Minn. Rules Parts 1205.0100-1205.2000 (Data Practices)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
34 C.F.R. §§ 99.1-99.67 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy)

Cross References:

Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
Policy 502 (Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person)
Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Student Records)
Policy 733 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)
Policy 736 (Video Surveillance Other Than on Buses)
MSBA/MASA Service Manual, Chapter 2, Transportation

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