

SCHOOL BUS SEAT BELT POLICY

It is the goal of the Fort Dodge Community School District Transportation Department to provide the safest student transportation possible. Beginning in 2020-2021, the District has purchased school buses equipped with lap/shoulder seat belts.

The District requires that all students riding a school district bus equipped with seat belts wear seat belts while the bus is in motion.

All students will receive instruction on the proper use of seat belts during the twice annual bus safety drills. Drivers are not responsible (i.e. liable) for students not wearing seat belts while riding. Drivers are responsible for instructing students to put on seat belts prior to the bus moving.

Students who may require assistance in using seat belts should ask the bus driver for help, so that all students are safely belted in their seat before the bus is in motion. Drivers will announce prior to the bus leaving that each student needs to be in their seat with the seat belt fastened.

Students refusing to use seat belts create a safety concern for themselves and others, and are subject to school district disciplinary actions. Repeated refusal to wear seat belts can result in suspension from bus riding privileges.

All adults accompanying students as bus riders are expected to utilize the lap/shoulder seat belts, too.

Consequences for Students

- Referral #1: Verbal Warning & Parent/Guardian notified by Director of Transportation.
- Referral #2: 3 days off of bus & Parent/Guardian notified by principal.
- Referral #3: 1 week off the bus & Parent/Guardian notified by principal.
- Referral #4: Removed from the bus for the remainder of the school year & Parent/Guardian notified by principal.