

**2010 Bodacious Bus Families Recommendations
Lake Forest District 67**

Introduction: The *Bodacious Bus Families Committee*, composed of parents, students, teachers, bus drivers, administrators, and district representatives, has generated several recommendations for District 67 consideration. Recommendations are categorized according to their intended impact: *To improve the overall bus experience with the intent of maintaining a safe, respectful, responsible, and consistent system or Bodacious Bus Families.*

I. Bodacious Bus Beginnings

Safety, Respect, Responsibility and Consistency BEFORE Riding the Bus

Rationale: Increase student understanding of the expectations before entering the bus

- Deliver a simple and strong message.
- Communicate the message early, often, clearly, and consistently.

Bus Safety Drills and Communication

Rationale: Ensure staff, parents, and students are well aware of the expectations when riding the bus.

- Use multiple methods and media, such as drills and safety videos to ensure understanding and consistency of the expectations when on the bus.
- Consider use of school assemblies, class meetings, and/or advisory to promote and problem-solve the experience on the bus.

Communication

Rationale: Ensure that staff, parents, and students are well aware of the expectations when riding the bus.

- Ensure inclusion of all stakeholder groups.
- Communication with all stakeholder groups will be ongoing, rather than a one-time occurrence.
- Contract to be reviewed periodically.
- Newsletters will be used for ongoing communication.

Parent Education

Rationale: Provide information to parents. Improve parents' understanding of the bus system, its rules, and their role in the system.

- Review contract with child.
- Review and reinforce bus expectations prior to and while on field trips.
- Volunteer to be present on bus rides if necessary.

Establish and Teach Clear School-Wide Rules and Expectations Across All Settings

Rationale: Without clear expectations that are known, taught, and upheld by all involved parties, programs cannot succeed.

- Continue to reinforce and fine tune what has been implemented in the district.
- Examine effective programs in comparable school districts when necessary.

II. Bodacious Bus Ride

Ensure Common Understanding of Bus Rules (Be safe, respectful, and responsible)

Rationale: All parties should review the rules to ensure consistency within each experience.

- Basic expectations: Throwing things is not allowed, keep middle aisle clear and open, food or drink is not allowed, and seating sections by grade
(See Bus Contract for full list of expectations)

Be Safe

Rationale: Allow consistency among each bus ride to prevent any violation of bus expectations.

Necessary components consider:

- Assigned sectioning Monday- Thursday. Friday could be a “free day”.
- Keep Middle Aisle Clear
- Food and Drink are not permitted
- Keep all body parts and belongings inside the bus at all times
- BULLYING IS NEVER TOLERATED

III. Bodacious Maintenance and Repair

Ensure Consistent Communication and Partnership Among All Stakeholder Groups

Rationale: Ensure there is follow up and consistent communication in order to ensure to maintain Bodacious Bus Families

Contract

- Review with students and parents periodically.
- Communication with students, parents, bus driver, and administrator when violations occur.
- Students possibly sign a sheet when rules are violated.

Administrative Involvement

- Be present when bus arrives and leaves school premises.
- Review bus expectations as part of curriculum night.
- Continue to stress how the bus experience is an extension of the school day.

Consistency

- Must be a consequence not a threat.
- Rules must be consistent among bus drivers.
- Bus drivers should be present during follow-up meetings.

Make Parent Contact Following Bus Rule Violation Incidents

Rationale: Acknowledgement and follow-up of event with parents, students, bus drivers, and administrators provides the opportunity to work jointly in a problem-solving effort.

- Bus drivers should be present during interventions with parents, administration, and students.

Summary of Recommendations: Committee members worked diligently to develop a number of recommendations for consideration of the school bus system. Our intent is to maintain Bodacious Bus Families that are safe, respectful and responsible.