

709.7R1 School Bus Passenger Restraints - Administrative Regulations

It is the goal of the Muscatine Community School District Transportation Department to provide the safest student transportation possible. On buses equipped with three-point lap-shoulder seat belt systems, seat belt use shall be mandatory for all riders and the following procedures below will be put into place:

- Each passenger shall have a seat, with no part of the passenger's body extending into the aisle.
- Student passengers shall have a minimum of 13 inches of allowable seating per person.
- For adult passengers, no more than two adults shall occupy a 39-inch seat.
- Standees are prohibited in all situations, whether the bus is transporting students or adults.
- The maximum number of passengers shall never exceed the rated capacity of the vehicle as it is equipped.

School bus drivers are responsible for instructing students to put on seat belts at three time periods:

1. Morning: When students board the bus, bus drivers will inform students to wear seat belts.
2. On Route: If a student takes their belt off (visibly) while riding, bus drivers will verbally warn or cite the student for misconduct.
 - a. Repeated refusal to wear seat belts can result in suspension from bus riding privileges.
3. Afternoon: The bus driver will walk from the front to back one time prior to the school parking lot departure.
4. Drivers will announce prior to the bus leaving that each student needs to be in their seat with the seat belt fastened.

Note: Drivers are not responsible (i.e. liable) for students wearing seat belts while riding. Drivers are responsible for instructing the students to put on seat belts prior to the three above scenarios.

LEG REF: Iowa Code 281-43

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