

Date: _____ Name: _____

Student Conduct and Students with Special Needs Survey (Cycle Three - ANSWERS)

True or False *Circle the appropriate response for the corresponding statement.*

- T** 1. A special needs route driver requires specialized training within thirty days. ***See Minnesota Rules 7470.1700 Sub. 3B Each driver and aide assigned to a vehicle transporting pupils with a disability must within one month after the effective date of assignment, participate in a program of in-service training on the proper methods for dealing with the specific needs and problems of pupils with disabilities. This may be as simple as talking with the parent or guardian or teacher about working with the student it may also include video or other specialized training.***
- T** 2. Managing student behavior is a top priority of school bus drivers who want to drive safely. ***You cannot drive safely if you are always looking in the over-head mirror monitoring student behavior.***
- F** 3. Students with special needs can be suspended from the school bus as many times as regular education students. ***Suspension of students with special needs is subject to any limits or guidelines in the student's IEP. You still need to document misconduct just as you would with any other student, District administration will determine appropriate consequences.***
- F** 4. Students who cross the street behind the bus should be allowed to continue this practice without any interference. ***Crossing behind the bus puts the child in danger and this must be dealt with immediately.***
- F** 5. If a fight occurs on the bus, the first thing a driver should do is run back to stop the fight. ***If a fight occurs on the bus, the first thing a driver should call into dispatch so that help is on the way in case the driver is unable to get the situation under control.***
- F** 6. If a student has a seizure, the driver should just continue driving towards the school or the student's home. ***Stop the bus and make sure that the student does not injure himself or herself. Call dispatch and inform them of the situation.***
- T** 7. Confidentiality issues apply to all students who ride a bus to and from school. ***State and federal laws protect the confidentiality of student information. You should never discuss students outside of those who have a need to know in order to address a specific student situation.***
- T** 8. Elementary school students can be very emotional if something goes wrong on the bus. They need to be handled with care and compassion. ***Elementary students are often not used to being away from their homes and are not as able to handle problems as older students can. Besides, any student can have a bad day.***
- F** 9. Drivers should intimidate students into complying with the school bus safety rules. ***Students may temporarily comply due to intimidation, but will eventually find a way to act out against someone who does not treat them with respect. Some students will not be intimidated no matter what, even by law enforcement.***
- F** 10. All Special education students ride on special needs vehicles. ***Special education students may ride on a regular education bus if their IEP team determines that it is appropriate. Mainstreaming is encouraged as a means of complying with placing the student in the Least Restrictive Environment.***
- F** 11. Documentation of student conduct should be limited to misbehavior. ***Anything out of the ordinary on the school bus should be documented, including: student injury, late students, misbehavior and any problems. Good behavior can also be documented. Documentation should be specific and only contain information about that student. If other students are involved they should be documented separately.***
- T** 12. Special needs students may develop a strong attachment to the bus driver and bus assistant and



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act out when one or the other is missing. ***Special needs students are often very routine-oriented and can become quite attached to people they deal with on a daily basis, they may act out when the people they are accustomed to seeing are not present on a given day, it is very important to have a good attendance record no matter who you are transporting.***

- T** 13. Federal and state governments have made a commitment to provide a free and equal education for all students. ***There are a number of laws to ensure all children have access to educational opportunities. A Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is what all children in the U.S. are entitled to under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).***
- F** 14. It is effective to yell at the students and parents when misbehavior occurs on a bus. ***Yelling at others shows a lack of control and will only undermine the driver's authority in the future. The students may even try to antagonize the driver to get them to yell again.***
- T** 15. If you must evacuate a vehicle, calmly instruct the students as to what you are doing and what you want them to do. ***It is important for the students to see that the driver is calm and in control of the situation when the bus must be evacuated. The students may be panicked and not thinking clearly and may need to be told what to do.***
- T** 16. The best way to get compliance with a disruptive student is to explain why their behavior is not safe and that you are concerned for their own personal safety. ***Sometimes students are not aware of why a rule exists and do not know that they are putting themselves and others in danger.***
- F** 17. Students never question authority if you are fair and consistent. ***Students may still question authority even if the driver is fair and consistent. It is still important to be fair and consistent so that you can be confident that you can stick to your mission of safely transporting the children.***
- T** 18. Drivers should not ride the lift up or down with a student using a wheelchair. ***Wheelchair lifts are not designed to have standees on them. If anything should go wrong the driver would not be in any position to assist the student or react to a problem. Also, the driver could fall off the lift. If there is a reason that you believe you should ride the lift, it must be cleared with your supervisor in advance.***
- T** 19. School staff may react negatively if a school bus driver demands certain consequences. ***School principals often know more about a child's individual circumstances than the bus driver does. It is important for the driver to consistently document any problems on the bus and then let the principal and school officials do their job.***
- T** 20. Drivers need to determine when they are not physically or emotionally able to drive on any given day and contact their supervisor. ***It is dangerous for a driver to drive the bus when they are physically or emotionally unable to drive. If, on a particular day, a driver cannot devote their full attention to driving they should let their supervisor know they need some time off.***

