
Criminal Conduct on School Buses

425.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Criminal conduct on school buses has been identified by the legislature as a critical component for the safety and security of the community. The primary purpose of this policy is to provide officers guidance in responding to reports of alleged criminal conduct on school buses. This department, in cooperation with any other law enforcement agency that may have concurrent jurisdiction over the alleged offense, is responsible for responding to all reports of criminal misconduct on school buses in this jurisdiction. (Minn. Stat. § 169.4581)

This policy is not intended to interfere with or replace school disciplinary policies that relate to student misconduct on school buses (Minn. Stat. § 169.4581).

425.2 COMMUNITY COOPERATION

The Minnetonka Police Department shall work with and consult with school officials, transportation personnel, parents and students to respond to these incidents to protect student safety and deal appropriately with those who violate the law.

425.3 PROCEDURE

This department shall respond to all criminal misconduct on school buses within the jurisdiction of this department regardless of the source of the report. Officers should take reasonable actions to complete the following:

- (a) Provide for the safety of any person involved in the incident or present at the incident.
- (b) Coordinate any appropriate care.
- (c) Investigate reports of crimes committed on school buses using the same procedures as followed in other criminal investigations as appropriate for juveniles and/or adults.
- (d) Issue citations, release pending further investigation, or apprehend and transport individuals committing crimes on school buses to the extent authorized by law.
- (e) Submit reports regarding the incident for review, approval and consideration for prosecution.
- (f) Complete follow-up and additional investigation as reasonably necessary to prepare a case pertaining to criminal conduct on school buses as required for prosecution.
- (g) Provide information to the relevant school regarding the incident as required or authorized by law.

Officers can use justifiable discretion in handling these matters. Officers should take into account the seriousness of the offense, actions under consideration and/or taken by the school, and input from individuals affected by the criminal conduct.