Improving Climate on School Buses

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Travel Back in Time
Maneuvering the Bus and Managing Students

About 760,000 Minnesota students take the bus every school day
Results of a Positive School Climate

- Improves Attendance
- Improves Academic Achievement
- Improves Student/Staff Retention
- Increases Graduation Rates
- Reduces Discipline Disparities
“Vehicles are one of the best modes of transportation. Relationships are one of the best vehicles of transformation.”

— Kate McGahan
Community on Wheels

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Driving to improve bus climate
Bus environment filled with challenges

- Impersonal environment
- Students all sit facing forward
- Driver has back to students
- Cramped and uncomfortable space
- Students don't know each other
Traditional discipline doesn’t work

Why?

• Only addresses a few behaviors
• Doesn’t address hurtful behaviors that are not against the rules
• Misses opportunity to teach skills to manage conflict
• Left to chance
ISD 30 uses the *Peaceful School Bus Program*

It is a schoolwide program designed to:

- Decrease inappropriate behavior
- Create a climate of respect and cooperation
- Build strong relationships among students and driver

The *Peaceful School Bus Program* is published by Hazelden Foundation, a publisher of evidence-based prevention programs for K-12 schools. Learn more about the *Peaceful School Bus Program* [https://www.hazelden.org/store/item/10078](https://www.hazelden.org/store/item/10078)
Thank you!

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