

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER

The primary responsibility of a school bus driver is to provide safe transportation to and from school for students. Every time a student violates a bus rule it increases the chance for the driver to be distracted. Every time the driver is distracted, it increases the chance of an accident. Therefore, **every student violation of a bus rule directly increases the chance that the bus may be involved in an accident.**

Because the concern for student safety is the highest priority, the following rules will be in effect at all times.

- Be on time for the bus, and be careful walking to and from the bus.
- Wait in an orderly line and avoid “horseplay”. The students will be a minimum of ten (10) feet from the bus when it comes to a stop. They will remain in line until the bus has stopped completely and the door is opened.
- If it is necessary to cross the road the student will cross ten (10) feet in front of the bus, and wait at the left front of the bus for the driver’s signal that it is safe to cross.
- Board quickly and take your seat. Students will remain seated until the bus arrives at their stop and when the bus comes to a complete stop. Do not stand up or move around while the bus is moving. This includes changing seats. Students may be assigned a specific seat by the driver.
- Students are always expected to obey the driver and respond promptly and cheerfully to the driver’s instructions.
- Do not leave the bus at locations other than the assigned stop without prior approval. Students will need to provide a bus pass when getting off at a stop other than the assigned stop. They must have a parent or guardian write a note, and then obtain a pass from the office.
- All school rules apply to the bus.
- Students will avoid yelling and screaming and should keep their voice to an appropriate (classroom) volume. Clapping, whistling, yelling, or any other loud noise may distract the driver’s attention from the road and create a safety problem.
- Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves and respect others and their property. Hitting and fighting on the bus will not be tolerated. There will be no horseplay, scuffling, name calling, swearing, rude gestures, cruel teasing, or put-downs.
- Students will not tamper with any bus equipment. Any damaged equipment, including seats will be paid for by the responsible party. Destruction of school property by doing things such as writing on seats or walls, ripping seats, or any other physical damage will result in disciplinary action.
- Students will not open or tamper with any of the emergency exits. Students will depart the bus only through the front exit, unless instructed otherwise by the driver.
- Students will not extend any part of their bodies out of the bus windows, nor should they throw objects on, from, or into the buses. Except with prior approval, students are to carry on only objects that can be held on their laps. Do not carry any hazardous material or animals on the bus.
- Students will keep the bus clean. Waste paper or other items should be disposed of in the garbage can. Do not throw garbage on the floor of the bus.
- There will be no eating or drinking on the bus to and from school. Under no circumstances will any carbonated drinks, or drinks in metal or glass containers be permitted on the bus.

- Smoking, chewing tobacco, and alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the bus.
- Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a weapon, or any item which is made or designed to look like or appear to be any such weapon is prohibited.
- Lighting matches, exploding firecrackers, or burning of papers or other material on the bus is prohibited.

Riding the bus is a privilege. Anyone who does not conduct himself/herself properly may be denied the privilege of riding the bus.

Bus Discipline Action Plan

The discipline steps listed below are the ones normally followed to correct inappropriate behavior and to teach the expected behavior. The steps may be altered if the behavior continues or requires a more severe disciplinary action. Students will at all times be given due process.

Minor Disruptive Behavior

For minor disruptive behavior such as safety violations, name calling, eating or drinking on the bus, noise distractions, or other inappropriate behavior, the following actions will be taken:

1st Offense:

Verbal warning by the driver. If the inappropriate behavior ceases, then no further action will be necessary. If the inappropriate behavior continues, the driver will complete a School Bus Incident Report Form which will be provided to the parent/guardian, and the student will be instructed in appropriate behavior.

2nd Offense:

The driver may place the student in an assigned seat for a minimum of three (3) days up to the remainder of the year. The parent is contacted by the driver, transportation supervisor, or principal. The principal or designee will counsel with the student regarding appropriate bus behavior.

3rd Offense:

The third offense will result in the student being denied bus privileges for one (1) day. The transportation director or principal will call the parent, and again instruct the student in appropriate bus behavior. Behavior Contract will be prepared, reviewed with all parties, and signed before the student will be allowed back on the bus.

4th Offense:

The above procedures will be followed with disciplinary actions that may include a three (3) day or longer bus suspension.

5th Offense:

The above procedures will be followed with disciplinary actions that may include a five (5) day or longer bus suspension.

6th Offense:

A recommendation for the termination of bus-riding privileges will be made to the administration, and/or school board.

Major Behavior Problems

Fighting or other dangerous behavior, vandalism, throwing objects in or out of the bus, profanity or obscene gestures or behavior, disrespect toward the driver or other students, and any other distractions or disruptions to a driver may result in bus suspension or termination

Snow Closure/School Closure Information

All students, parents, and school employees should assume that school will be in session and buses running as scheduled, unless there is official notification from the Superintendent to the contrary. Such notice will be given via public media and the School Messenger calling system.

In the event that extremely cold temperatures, wind chill factors, snow, wind or other circumstances require a modification of the normal routine, the Superintendent will make the decision prior to 6:00 a.m. and contact will be made via School Messenger notification. The public radio stations and TV stations are part of this notification.



Keeping Your Information Current

The calling system we use for notification of school closures or delays due to weather is only as reliable as the information we are provided. Please make sure we have your most current information on file in the building offices. If you move or change phone numbers let us know as soon as possible.

Thank You