School Bus Transportation Policies

School bus drivers are responsible for the safety of all students riding their buses. Bus drivers are instructed to pick up and deliver students ONLY to their assigned school bus stops and school.

District Wide Major Offenses:

1. Damaging or stealing property.
2. Hitting, roughing, kicking, spitting, or physical abuse.
3. Defiance or disrespect of authority.
4. Throwing objects.
5. Disrespectful/abusive language or gestures.
6. Continuous disruptive behavior.
7. Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons, or pornographic materials.
8. Getting off at a different bus stop or riding another bus without permission.

ALL MAJOR OFFENSES WILL BE CAUSE FOR SUSPENSION FROM THE PRIVILEGE OF RIDING THE SCHOOL BUSES.

The school bus driver has full authority and responsibility for maintaining order and discipline needed to assure the safe operation of the bus while driving on busy roads.

Those riding the bus have an obligation to obey the posted rules and bus driver’s orders.

TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL PASSENGERS THE FOLLOWING STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED:

1. Before boarding the bus, stand back until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door. When leaving the bus, be careful, LOOK & LISTEN, for traffic and other hazards. Enter and exit the bus without pushing or shoving.
2. Remain in your seat while the bus is moving. Keep head, hands and feet (the entire body) inside the bus. When you are assigned a seat, you are REQUIRED to sit in it. If damage is done to a seat while assigned to it, the students will be responsible for payment of vandalism costs for repairs.
3. Students are to keep books, body parts, backs packs, etc. out of the aisles at all times. Other arrangements must be made to haul objects too large to be held on laps or placed between student’s legs. Large band instruments that cannot be placed between the student’s legs or lap and interfere with other student’s space assigned to the same seat will not be allowed on the school bus.
4. **Talk must be kept** at a conversational level. Loud talking or shouting will distract the driver and constitute as a safety hazard. Students may not play music, without headphones, on the bus.

5. **When it is necessary for pupil** to cross the road at a bus stop, the crossing is required to be made in FRONT of the bus after looking both ways to make sure no traffic is approaching from either direction AND after the driver has signaled that it is safe to cross.

6. **Permission to ride a different bus** must be obtained in advance from the transportation manager. The only cases where students are allowed to ride a different bus are for baby-sitting purposes and emergency purposes. Students may not ride home for boy/girl scouts, sports, spending the night, etc. The student must first bring a note from home or a phone call to the school.

7. **Profane, foul, and disrespectful** language or gestures are forbidden.

8. **Possession or use of tobacco**, alcohol, or other illegal drugs, weapons, or pornographic material is prohibited. *Gum, food, and drinks MUST remain in backpacks or lunch boxes and not eaten or taken out on the school bus. The driver may confiscate these items if they are out on the school bus! Eating food on the bus is with the driver’s permission only! Stereo/CD players, skateboards, scooters, etc. are NOT allowed at school so therefore, not allowed on the school buses except when cleared through the Bus company and the school administration.*

9. **Fighting on the bus is absolutely** prohibited and all students involved will be suspended from the buses (both AM and PM buses & fieldtrip buses) despite not receiving a written warning first!

10. **Disruptive behavior or defiance** of authority is forbidden and will not be tolerated.

11. **Parents are not authorized passengers** and we cannot allow them on any of the school buses unless allowed by the transportation supervisor. The only adults that are permitted to ride the school buses are designated by the school district and transportation company as bus aides or monitors, typically on the handicapped bus. If one parent were allowed to ride, then we would be obligated to allow every other parent to ride the bus. The bus student counts are designed to transport as a full load of students to and from school as possible, leaving no room for parents.

12. **All students are required to be at their bus stop** 5 minutes before scheduled leaving time in the AM. This will allow all the children in the district to be able to get to school on time. If a driver has to continually wait for children it puts all stops behind time! Students will be warned and then issued a discipline slip if it becomes habitual.

13. **Students are under the supervision of the school until they are at their own bus stop.** Students are to maintain the same manner and good discipline on the school bus as they are to at school. *The school bus is considered to be an extension of the classroom.* We expect students to behave properly. We encourage parents, if possible, to maintain order at the bus stops prior to the bus arriving there to pick up students if you hear of
any problems. The bus driver will maintain order when they come to the stop and while
the children are on the bus.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING RULES

- 1st offense: School gets notified and a letter gets sent to parent(s) and/or a phone
call to parent(s).
- 2nd offense: School gets notified, parent(s) gets notified-cannot ride the bus the
next day.
- 3rd offense: School gets notified, parent(s) gets notified-cannot ride the bus for a
week after the incident.

Understand that if the offense is of a more violent and serious nature, the student can
be removed from the bus at any time without following the offense steps. These types
of violations are referenced in numbers 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 above. However, this is not an
inclusive list and the bus driver will have the authority to determine the discipline with
the school administrator.

Parents & Guardians

We’d appreciate your help too! Thanks so much!

Helping your child to be a responsible bus student helps keep everyone safe. Help them
to be on time for their bus and to take the safest route to and from the bus stop.

Help them learn all the bus rules and explain the importance of following the
instructions of their driver. All of our drivers are Certified School Bus Drivers. The safety
of your child is their first and foremost responsibility. This requires their attention to be
on the road at all times. Disruption by students distracts the drivers from this
responsibility. Drivers are there to deliver you children safely to and from school. This is
why all the rules must be followed.

Please remember that there are always two sides to every story. If problems arise, as
parents and the bus company, we need to be understanding and listen to both sides.
Typically, students will receive a verbal warning, a seating assignment change may take
place, a written warning, call to parents, and then suspension from bus riding privileges.
(This means AM & PM Buses & also any field trip that occur during the suspension
period).
Bus Rules
Always Be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible

Bus Rules:
1. Follow all Adult Directions and Bus Rules. Driver may assign seats.
2. Sit in your seat facing forward and remain seated. No switching seats or standing.
4. Talk quietly and use appropriate language. No profanity.
5. Keep head, hands, feet and belongings inside the bus and to yourself.
6. No eating, drinking or use of tobacco or drugs.
7. Keep bus clean. Please pick up all trash prior to exiting.
8. Phones—must use ear buds to listen to music, cannot be a distraction to the driver or to those around you, no taking pictures or videos.
9. Do not bring and weapon or dangerous objects on the bus.
10. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
11. Absolute quiet at RR tracks.
12. Do not throw objects.
13. Do not destroy property.

Misconduct Infractions:
• 1st offense: Letter or email gets sent to parent(s) and/or a phone call to parent(s).
• 2nd offense: School gets notified, parent(s) gets notified—cannot ride the bus the next day.
• 3rd offense: School gets notified, parent(s) gets notified—cannot ride the bus for a week after the incident.

The rules and infractions include routes and transportation to and from all activities. The suspensions may be altered by the Administration if the misconduct is determined to be more serious in nature.