

Bus Ridership Rules and Regulations

PLEASE READ THESE RULES AND CONSEQUENCES WITH YOUR CHILDREN. SIGN THE ATTACHED FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE BUS DRIVER WITHIN FIVE DAYS

Rules:

Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right. In order for the District to provide safe transportation, the rules of student bus conduct shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. The bus driver is in full charge of all persons riding on the bus and has the same status and authority as a teacher insofar as discipline is concerned. Pupils shall obey the directions of the bus driver promptly and courteously.
2. Pupils shall board and leave the bus at their established stop, except when they have a request signed by their parent/guardian to board or leave from another established stop. Pupils shall ride their assigned bus unless reassigned by the respective school principal/designee.
3. Pupils shall observe safe pedestrian practices while walking to and from the bus stop. Students shall arrive at their designated bus stop not less than five (5) minutes nor more than ten (10) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. The bus will not honk and will not wait. Once a bus starts to move, students must not chase after it. Pupils shall wait in an orderly manner and shall respect private and public property while waiting at the bus stop.
4. After the bus has come to a complete stop, pupils shall enter the bus, sit directly in one of the first two seats, and remain seated until the bus is stopped completely at the next stop. The pupils will then leave the front seats and proceed to the next available seat or assigned seat. While unloading the pupils will advance to the front seat at the stop before their stop. After the bus comes to a complete stop, they will unload from the front seat only at their designated stop.
5. If it is necessary for pupils to cross the road before boarding or after leaving the bus, the pupil must wait fifteen (15) feet in front of the bus until an "all clear" signal is given by the driver, then cross carefully.
6. Pupils shall talk quietly and avoid loud noises on the bus. Riders shall avoid unnecessary conversations with the driver while the bus is moving. Absolute silence is required when the bus stops at a railroad crossing.
7. Students shall not be allowed to swear, use obscene language or gestures, or mistreat other students.
8. Students shall not be allowed to rough house, fight, or harass other passengers on the bus.
9. Students shall help the bus driver maintain the interior and exterior of the bus in good order; vandalism will not be tolerated.
10. Pupils shall not tamper with emergency doors or equipment.
11. Pupils must keep all parts of their body (hands, arms, feet, head, etc.) inside the bus at all times. No materials are to be thrown inside the bus, from the bus, or into the bus.

12. Eating or drinking is not allowed on the bus, except when unusual circumstances exist and prior approval is given by school transportation personnel.
13. School district policies and procedures pertaining to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances and weapons are in effect at the bus stop and on the bus.
14. Breakable containers, skateboards, hazardous materials, cigarette lighters, matches, shop projects, or animals (other than service animals) are not permitted on any school bus. Any items carried on the bus must be small enough to be held on the lap of the student.
15. **In the event of a serious accident, parents will be notified as to where they can pick up their students; however, please remember that, by law, students cannot leave with anyone until they have been checked over by medical personnel and released by law enforcement officers.**

Discipline for Noncompliance:

The bus is considered an extension of the classroom and bus drivers and principals have the authority to discipline students. Discipline for violation of this policy/procedure may involve, up to and including, suspension and/or forfeiture of all transportation privileges.

1. The driver will give the student a verbal warning. If the warning does not resolve the problem, the driver will issue a misconduct report. A copy of all misconduct reports will be sent to the student's parent/guardian.
2. Upon issuance of the misconduct report, the student will conference with the principal/designee and receive an appropriate consequence.
3. A second misconduct report will result in an automatic suspension of all riding privileges for three days.
4. A third misconduct report will result in an automatic suspension of all riding privileges for five days.
5. The issuance of a fourth misconduct report will result in the loss of all riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.

Automatic Two-Day Suspension from all Transportation for the following:

1. Opening or playing with the emergency door.
2. Throwing objects at the driver or other students.
3. Rough-housing, fighting, or harassing others on the bus.
4. Chasing after the bus when it has started to move at the bus island.
5. Using obscene language or gestures at the drivers or others.

Procedure History:

Promulgated on:

Revised on:

Reviewed on: