



## **BUS CONDUCT POLICY**

Our goal is for every child to have a safe ride to and from school. In the vicinity of buses and on buses, students will conduct themselves in a manner that does not endanger and does not contribute to the endangerment of themselves and/or other students. It is very important that all students do their part to make the bus ride safe.

Bus transportation is a privilege that can be suspended if a student's behavior creates an unsafe condition on the bus. Please review the expectations and consequences listed below.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

#### **Meeting the bus**

1. Students must always be on time.
2. If a student has to walk along the highway in approaching the bus stop, he/she should always walk on the shoulder of the road.
3. Students should walk, not run, when crossing the highway. Students should wait on their side of the roadway and wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross.
4. Students should not run alongside the bus when the bus is moving. They should wait until the bus stops and then walk to the door.

#### **On the bus**

1. Students should go to their seats without crowding or pushing, and they should remain seated while the bus is in motion.
2. Students should only open bus windows with the permission of the driver. Students must never extend arms, legs, or heads out of the bus, nor should they throw objects from bus windows.
3. Except in an emergency, students should not talk to the driver while the bus is in motion.
4. Students must never tamper with the emergency exits or any other part of the bus equipment, including fire extinguishers and first aid equipment.
5. Students must not mar or deface the bus or its seat coverings in any manner. Any damage to the bus or seats should be reported by the student to the driver as soon as possible.
6. Students must not fight or scuffle or create any disturbance on the bus. Classroom-type conduct should be maintained while on the bus.
7. Books, lunch boxes, or other objects should not be placed in the aisle of the bus. Aisles and stairwells must always be clear. Band instruments, science projects, coolers, etc., will not be allowed on any state-owned or district-owned bus unless they can be placed under the seat or held in the rider's lap.
8. Students are not allowed to eat or drink on the bus.

#### **Leaving the bus**

1. Students must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop. They must never attempt to leave until the bus has come to a full stop and the door is opened to indicate that they may leave.
2. Students should leave in an orderly manner. Students in the front seats leave first.
3. Students must not loiter or play around a stopped or parked bus.
4. Students should not enter a restricted area set aside for bus parking or loading unless the bus is at a complete stop. Students should only enter their assigned bus.
5. Students are permitted to leave only at regular designated stops. Any changes must be made with the parent's request and approved by the school principal or his/her designee.
6. The students, after leaving the bus (if he/she must cross the highway), should walk at a right angle to and at least ten feet in front of the bus and wait until the bus driver directs him/her to cross. After the signal is given by the driver, the student should walk, not run, across the highway.

## CONSEQUENCES

Students creating or being involved in activities causing discipline problems on a school bus, including while entering, exiting, or waiting for a bus, will be reported to his/her principal. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken pursuant to the District's Behavior Code procedures.

The bus driver has responsibility for supervision of all students on his/her bus. He/she may stop the bus at any time that misbehavior or threatened misbehavior offers a hazard to safe driving.

In addition to discipline students according to the District's Behavior Code procedures, upon recommendation of the bus driver or supervisor(s) of transportation, the principal may suspend a student from riding the bus. The penalties for bus infractions are:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning or may be suspended from the bus until parent conference

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: May be suspended from the bus for 1 to 5 school days.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: May be suspended from the bus for 6 to 10 school days.

4<sup>th</sup> Offense: May be suspended from the bus for 11 to 15 school days.

5<sup>th</sup> Offense: May result in the loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.

These guidelines may be adjusted based on the seriousness of the offense and could result in an evidentiary hearing. If the bus supervisor and principal determine that the offense poses a direct and serious threat to the students or others on the bus, the student can be suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of the year.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature