



Horry County Schools and Forestbrook Middle School

Bus Behavior Expectations

To assure safety on school buses, it is essential that students and parents recognize the necessity for all bus riders to cooperate fully with the bus driver and to observe bus rules. Students must remain seated on buses and conduct themselves in an orderly manner. The bus driver has responsibility for supervision of students in the bus. He/she may stop the bus at any time misbehavior or threatening behavior poses a safety hazard. A student who creates a disturbance shall be reported to his/her school administrator. Appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken (Regulation JKD-R, 6/21/99). The following regulations govern the conduct of students and other passengers on school buses serving Horry County Schools. The bus driver shall assure that his/her passengers abide by them. Parents should not try to solve disagreements with drivers or students at school bus stops. Please contact the local bus supervisor at 843-293-1804 or 843-293-6941.

Video cameras: Students on a school bus are subject to being videotaped at any time in order to promote safety. The tapes may be used by the administration in taking disciplinary or other appropriate action against the students.

Meeting the bus:

- Students must be on time.
- If a student has to walk along the highway when approaching the bus stop, he/she should always walk on the shoulder of the road.
- Students should remain on their side of the roadway and wait for the driver to signal them to cross.
- Students should walk, not run, when crossing the highway.
- Students should not run alongside the bus when the bus is moving but should wait until it stops and then walk to the door.
- Students should not enter the restricted area set aside for bus parking or loading unless the bus is at a complete stop.
- Students should enter only their assigned bus.

On the bus:

Students should go to their seats without crowding or pushing and remain seated while the bus is in motion.

- Students must never extend their arms, legs, or head out of bus windows.

- Students should not talk to the driver while the bus is in motion except in an emergency.
- Students must never tamper with the emergency exits or any other bus equipment.
- Students must not vandalize 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.
- Only the driver or other authorized person should remove first aid equipment, which is only used for emergency treatment.
- Students must not tamper with the fire extinguisher, which is only used by the driver in an emergency.
- Students should only open bus windows with the permission of the driver.
- Students must not fight, scuffle, or create any disturbance in the bus. The same conduct expected in the classroom should be maintained on the bus.
- Students must not wave or shout to pedestrians or occupants of other vehicles from the bus.
- Students must not throw objects from bus windows.
- Books, lunch boxes, or other objects should not be placed in the aisle of the bus. The “SC Commercial Driver’s License Manual” states there should be nothing in the aisles that might trip riders. Aisles and stairs must always be clear. Band instruments, science projects, etc. will not be allowed on any state or county-owned school bus unless they can be placed under the seat or held in the rider’s lap.
- Students are not allowed to eat or drink on the bus.

Students must remain seated until the bus comes to a full and complete stop; a full stop occurs when the bus door has opened which indicates it is safe for the student to stand and to exit.

Exiting the bus:

- Students should leave in an orderly manner.
- Students must not loiter or play around the stopped or parked bus.
- Students are permitted to exit the bus only at regular designated stops. Any stop changes require a written request from the parent and must be approved by the bus supervisor. **A written parent request should be given to the school secretary by 10 a.m. The secretary will call the parent to confirm the note and will write a rider verification note for the student. Due to bus overcrowding, a change of bus to ride home with a friend may not be permitted.**
- After the student leaves the bus to cross the highway, he/she should walk at a right angle at least ten feet in front of the bus and wait until the bus driver directs him/her to cross.
- After the driver gives the signal, the student should walk, not run, across the highway. (Regulation JCDAD-R, 7/31/96.)

Suspension from the bus is NOT suspension from school. The student is expected to use an alternative means of transportation to come to school and to return home.

Sanctions to be applied by FMS in cases of bus conduct violations include, but are not limited

to:

- First offense-warning and parent conference.
- Second offense-suspension from bus for up to five (5) school days.
- Third offense-suspension from bus for up to ten (10) school days.
- Fourth offense-suspension from bus for up to fifteen (15) school days.
- Fifth offense-loss of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the year.

Please note: The guidelines above may be adjusted based on the seriousness of the offense. If the bus supervisor and school administration determine that the offense poses a direct and serious threat to the safety of others on the bus or to the student directly, the student can be suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of the year or recommended for an expulsion hearing. For serious offenses (weapons, assaults, drugs, or threats to staff) on the school bus, school sanctions such as suspension and recommendation for expulsion hearing may be appropriate. (Regulation JKD-R, 6/21/99)