

Student Conduct on Buses

Riding the school bus is a privilege for students, not a right. Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding School District vehicles as are expected on school property and at school activities, functions, and events and additional specific transportation safety rules. All school rules are in effect while a student is riding a District vehicle or at a school bus stop.

Denial of Bus Riding Privileges When in the opinion of the bus driver, the disciplinary action warrants the issuance of a Bus Misconduct Report to the student, the driver shall notify the building principal of the issuance of the report. The report must be signed by the student's parent/guardian and returned to the bus driver before the student is allowed to resume riding the bus. The driver will return the signed misconduct report to the principal to be filed in the student's file.

If a second Bus Misconduct Report is issued, the bus driver shall notify the student and his/her parents that he/she has been suspended from the bus and the parent must contact the building principal in order to resolve the problem. The bus driver should then inform the principal of the incident. Once the building principal has been contacted by the student's parents, the principal may arrange for a conference between the student, the parents/guardians, and the bus driver.

If a third notice is issued, the same procedure shall be followed as outlined for the second notice except the building principal shall automatically suspend the student from riding the bus for five (5) days. A conference shall be arranged before the student will be allowed back on the bus.

If a fourth notice is issued, the same procedure shall be followed as outlined for the second notice except the building principal shall inform the students and parents that the student's riding privileges have been revoked for the remainder of the school year and that upon parental request, a hearing will be held at the next regularly scheduled school board meeting to review the matter.

If in the opinion of the building principal or superintendent, the reported misconduct warrants, additional discipline measures may be imposed after any misconduct notice.

Student Bus Rules

1. The student shall arrive at the bus stop before the bus arrives. The bus cannot wait for those who are tardy.
2. The student shall wait in a safe place, clear of traffic and away from where the bus stops.
3. The student shall wait in an orderly line and avoid horseplay.
4. The student shall cross the road or street in front of the bus only after the bus has come to a complete stop and upon direction of the driver.
5. The driver may assign the student to a seat. The student shall go directly to an available or assigned seat when entering the bus.
6. The student shall remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear.

7. The student shall observe classroom conduct and obey the driver promptly and respectfully.
8. The student shall refrain from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into buses.
9. The student is permitted to carry only objects that can be held on his/her lap. Arrangements must be made with the driver for large musical instruments.
10. The student shall not use profane or obscene language, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any other controlled substance on the bus.
11. Eating and drinking on the bus may be permitted or prohibited at the driver's discretion.
12. The student shall not carry hazardous materials, nuisance items, and animals onto the bus.
13. The student shall respect the rights and safety of others.
14. The student shall refrain from leaving or boarding the bus at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school.
15. The student shall refrain from extending head, arms, or objects out of the bus windows.

A copy of the rules of conduct for students riding buses shall be provided to students at the beginning of the year. The classroom teacher and bus driver shall review the rules with the students at the beginning of each school year. A copy of the rules shall be posted in each bus and shall be available upon request at the District office and in each building principal's office.

The bus driver shall be responsible for enforcing the rules and shall work closely with the parent and the building principal to modify a student's behavior. The rules shall include consistent consequences for student misbehavior.

Recommendations for permanent termination of bus privileges will be referred to the Superintendent for final determination. The termination may be appealed to the Board. No further appeal shall be allowed.

A recommendation to terminate bus privileges shall be accompanied by a written record of the incident(s) that led to the recommendation. Said written record shall be provided to the parent/guardian of the student whose bus privileges are being revoked.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

If a student's IEP team determines that special transportation is required and documents it on the IEP, all procedures under the IDEA 2004 must be followed with regard to the student and transportation. A suspension from bus transportation depends on whether bus transportation is identified on the IEP:

1. If bus transportation is on the IEP, a suspension from the bus would be treated as a suspension from school. An exception to this is if the District provides transportation in some other way, such as transportation in lieu of, because transportation is necessary.

