

Student Conduct on School Buses



Students transported to and from school in school district vehicles are expected to follow instructions and conduct themselves properly on the school bus in order to ensure passenger safety and continued use of transportation. Students who do not conduct themselves properly while on the bus may be withdrawn at any time.

Because of insurance concerns and to prevent overcrowding, it is necessary that students ride only the bus to which they have been assigned.

Regulations include, but are not limited to, the following:

Boarding School Buses

- Students should be at the bus stop five minutes prior to the scheduled time and be ready to board with the least possible delay.
- Students should look for traffic in both directions before crossing the street and should cross at crosswalk areas and where crossing guards are posted.
- Students should not stand in the street while waiting for the bus.
- Students should remain in line at least five feet from the bus when it stops to pick up students and should not move toward the bus until the bus is at a complete stop and the door is open.
- Students may not bring animals or any unlawful items onto the bus.
- Students may ride only the bus to which they are regularly assigned.
- If a bus student wishes to ride a different bus, he/she must bring a written request to the office from a parent or guardian. Each request will be considered on an individual basis and a bus pass will be issued from the principal. Requests will not be approved on a regular basis.

Riding School Buses

- Students must conduct themselves in an acceptable manner at all times. Foul or unusually loud language or any other improper conduct (fighting, pushing, tripping, hitting, spitting, etc.) will not be tolerated.
- Students may not block the aisle or emergency door with materials (lunch boxes, books, etc.), clothing, or themselves, etc.
- Students must not extend arms or heads or any other appendage out of the bus windows at any time.
- Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion, or if the bus is delayed on the road.
- Students may not operate the bus door or tamper with the emergency door.
- Students may not use the emergency door except in case of emergency, or during a drill.

- Students may not eat, drink, or smoke on the bus.
- Students may not use electronic devices as cameras, or access objectionable or offensive sites while on the bus. (Please refer to our Acceptable Use Policy.)
- Students must not litter, damage, or deface any part of the bus. The student will be responsible for all repairs in the event this occurs.
- Students may not litter or throw things out of the bus windows.
- The principal or bus driver may assign students seats on the bus.

Departing School Buses

- Students may not depart the bus in the morning before it arrives at school.
- Students may not depart the bus in the afternoon except at designated bus stops.
- Students who must cross the street after exiting the bus shall cross approximately 10 feet in front of the bus while the eight-way lighting system is flashing.
- Students may not stand on the highway or the street.

Disciplinary Actions

To ensure student safety, students must obey the bus driver at all times while under his/her supervision. Students riding any bus should be aware that video and audiotapes might be made of their activities on the buses at any time. The driver must report, in writing, all violations of safety regulations as well as any behavior problems to the principal or designee at the first opportunity. The principal has the authority to deny any student the privilege of riding a school bus. Consequences include but are not limited to:

First, second and third offenses will include a conference with the student and notification to the parents. The principal of each school will determine the action taken for each offense which can include loss of bus privileges for a set number of days or for the remainder of the school year, after-school or Saturday detentions, or out-of-school suspensions. Please consult the school's handbook for specific actions that may be taken according to the school's principal. Serious offenses, even if a first offense, will be dealt with more severely and the student may be denied busing privileges for an appropriate time.

Such serious offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Fighting
- Use of any illegal substances, items, or products
- Destroying property
- Any improper behavior that may endanger the safety and welfare of the students and/or bus driver.

By reviewing and following these rules of behavior while on or around any school bus, students will help ensure safety for themselves and others. Time spent now in reviewing the rules may prevent a problem at a later date.