

**Student Conduct
on Buses
(information that is in bold is new/updated)**

Any misconduct by a student, which in the opinion of the bus driver or bus director, is detrimental to the safe operation of the bus shall be sufficient cause for the transportation director to suspend the transportation privilege.

Rules of conduct for students riding buses:

- 1) Students shall obey the driver and any aide assigned to the bus by the district. The driver and/or **monitor** is in full charge of the bus and passengers and shall be obeyed promptly and willingly. If an aide is assigned to the bus by the district, he/she shall be responsible for the safe operation of the bus. When transporting classes or teams, the teacher or coach shall be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students. Students shall obey both the driver/**monitor** and the teacher, coach or other staff member **promptly and willingly**. The driver has final decision for behavior of students.
- 2) Students are considered to be "at school" when they board the bus in the morning and are expected to ride the bus home in the afternoon unless other arrangements are made through the school office. Students are to come into the school building immediately after getting off the bus in the morning and are to board the bus immediately after dismissal. Middle school students who board the bus at the high school without permission may receive a Level I discipline referral.
- 3) **Students shall stand away from the roadway curb when any bus is approaching or leaving a stop.** Students shall be on time. Students shall be at the bus stop ten (10) minutes early and wait in an orderly and respectful manner. **When a student is late for pick up and misses the bus the parent/guardian is responsible for transportation to school.**
- 4) Students shall ride their regularly assigned bus at all times, unless permission has been granted by school authorities via note/contact from parents or guardians. (Notes must be in the office no later than 2:00 p.m.) **Passes may be issued for non-regular riders based upon space availability.**
- 5) Students may be permitted to leave the bus at other than his or her regular stop when permission has been granted by school authorities via note or call from parents or guardians. A follow-up written note is required to confirm phone messages. Notes requesting bus passes must have the address of where the student is to be dropped. **A Route Authorization Slip must be received by the driver.**
- 6) Each student may be assigned a seat in which he/she will be seated at all times unless permission to change is given by the driver.
- 7) Students shall observe rules of classroom conduct (**inside voices**) while riding on buses. Noise shall be kept down to avoid distracting the driver. **Student harassment, weapons, fighting, excessive noise, loud behavior, spitting, throwing things, vulgar or profane language/gestures and vandalism will not be tolerated. Students identified as the vandalizing agent will be held responsible for cost associated with all restoration/repair to damaged property.** Obscene language or gestures directed toward the driver will result in loss of bus privileges for up to one week.
- 8) Students shall not smoke or ignite lighters or matches on buses.
- 9) Students are to assist in keeping the bus clean. Students shall not eat on buses, except when specifically authorized and supervised by an accompanying teacher, coach or other staff member. Buses shall be kept clean.
- 10) Students must see that personal belongings are kept out of the aisle. Large items, which cannot be held in the student's lap, will not be transported on a school bus.
- 11) Students shall not extend any part of their body out of bus windows at any time.
- 12) Students shall not carry or have in their possession items that can cause injury to passengers on the bus. Such items include, but are not limited to, sticks, breakable containers, weapons or firearms, straps, balloons or pins protruding from clothing, large, bulky items which cannot be held or placed between legs, etc. Books and personal belongings shall be kept out of aisles.
- 13) **Students shall not play any radio, Ipods, Mp3, CD players or any other form of entertainment devices on the bus without driver's permission. Cell phones must be on silent and put away at all times.**

- 14) Students may not have laser devices on the bus. The discharge of a laser device at a bus driver is against the law. (SHB 2086)
- 15) Students shall not have any animals, including reptiles, fish or fowl, on the bus (except a dog providing assistance to a disabled student, (or certified assistant animals)).
- 16) Possession and/or use of tobacco, illegal drugs and any form of an incendiary device is strictly prohibited.
- 17) Students shall not sit in the driver's seat or to the immediate right or left of the driver.
- 18) If requested by the driver, students must identify themselves. If 7-12 graders should refuse, they may be denied transportation immediately and until proper identification is provided.
- 19) Students shall refrain from talking to the driver unless necessary.
- 20) Students must always cross 10 feet in front of the bus in full view of the driver. Students must wait for driver's instruction, look both ways before crossing a roadway and NEVER cross behind the school bus.
- 21) Students shall go directly to a seat once inside the bus and remain seated at all times unless the driver instructs otherwise. Students are to remain in their seats while the bus is in motion. Students must sit facing the front of the bus and may talk in a low conversational level with those near them.
- 22) Students shall get on/off the bus in an orderly manner and shall obey the instructions of the driver or school personnel on duty. There shall be no pushing and shoving when boarding or leaving the bus. Once off the bus, students shall adhere to rules for pedestrians.
- 23) Students must look both ways before crossing a roadway and always cross in front of the bus in full view of the driver. Students shall stand away from the roadway curb when any bus is approaching or leaving a stop.
- 24) Students going to and from their bus stops where there are no sidewalks shall walk on the left-hand side of the roadway facing oncoming traffic. Students shall go directly to their home after leaving the bus.
- 25) Students shall use lap belts on buses when available.
- 26) Students shall follow emergency exit drill procedures as prescribed by the driver.
- 27) Students shall not tamper with emergency doors or equipment on the bus. Any damage to a bus shall be reported to the driver at once.
- 28) No student shall open a window on the school bus without first receiving permission from the school bus driver. No student shall throw anything out of windows and are to assist in keeping waste off of the floor. No student shall at any time extend head, hands, or arms out of the window, whether the school bus is in motion or standing still. NO GUM CHEWING, FOOD OR BEVERAGES may be brought on nor consumed on the bus.
- 29) When the bus stops at a railroad crossing, there shall be absolutely no noise or talking until the bus is completely across the tracks. Students shall remain quietly seated, not exhibit disruptive behavior and turn off all noise-making devices at highway rail grade crossings.
- 30) Student misconduct may constitute grounds for immediate exclusion from transportation privileges. Deliberate refusal to follow driver's instructions will result in exclusion from transportation privileges.
- 31) Parents of students identified as causing damage to buses shall be charged with the cost of the incurred damage. Any damage to a bus must be reported to the driver at once. Students causing the damage may be suspended from transportation. Students will reimburse the school district for damage to buses resulting from students' misconduct and may be subject to loss of riding privileges and suspension or expulsion from school.
- 32) For the health and well being of our drivers, monitors and students who might have allergies, students are NOT allowed to wear strong colognes and perfumes while riding the school bus.

Revised/Adopted: July 27, 2009