

The driver is responsible for the safe conduct of students and for the behavior of students on the bus. The driver is in charge of pupils riding on his bus the same as a teacher is in charge of pupils in a classroom, and he/she is expected to enforce proper standards of conduct therefore, the driver may assign seats or may deny the privilege of riding to any student who violates rules of proper conduct. Students are subject to school regulations from the time they board the bus in the morning until they leave the bus in the evening.

WHEN IS A BUS A SCHOOL?

According to state laws and regulations, a school bus is considered a "school zone" no matter where students are being loaded or unloaded. Motorists should always treat a bus that has come to a complete stop as a "school zone." If the red lights are flashing, motorists from both directions must stop. If the red lights are not flashing, motorists must reduce speed to 20 mph until they have safely passed the bus. What is the biggest fear of any school bus driver? Motorists from either direction who ignore the flashing red lights and drive on past, endangering the lives of students. The law says, "All motorists must stop in both directions when school bus red lights are flashing." The only exception is when you are traveling on the opposite side of a divided highway.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

Conduct that provides grounds for suspension from bus riding privileges includes:

1. Student conduct that occurs on the bus, which may warrant or requires suspension or expulsion under the Safe School Policy, FHA.
2. Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or another rider.
3. Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.
4. Use of profanity after a warning.
5. Repeated willful disobedience to a bus driver or other supervisor's directives.
6. Such other behavior as the school administration deems to threaten the safe operation of bus and its occupants.
7. Pupils being transported are under the authority of the bus driver.
8. A bus stop time schedule is posted in each bus and shall be followed.

9. Pupils shall be on time for the bus both morning and evening-in the morning, five (5) minutes before the bus is due but no earlier. Buses will leave school in the afternoon according to the following schedule.

High School - 10 minutes after bell

Middle School - 10 minutes after bell

Elementary - 5 minutes after bell

10. Pupils shall walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic when coming to meet the bus.
11. Pupils shall remain seated while the bus is in motion.
12. The bus driver may assign pupils seats.
13. The bus driver shall instruct students how to cross the road.
14. Pupils shall not extend their hands, arms, or heads through bus windows.
15. Assigned stops can be changed or altered by a parent through the transportation office. The school principal will handle emergencies.
16. Pupils should converse in normal tones; loud or vulgar language is prohibited.
17. Pupils shall not open or close windows without permission of the driver.
18. The emergency door shall be opened only in cases of an emergency.
19. Pupils shall keep the bus clean and refrain from damaging it. Students will not be permitted to eat or drink while the bus is in transit. At the discretion of the driver and with the sanction of school officials, students may be permitted to eat lunch on the bus. All litter must be removed from the bus when the passengers leave.
20. Pupils shall be courteous to the driver, fellow pupils and others.
21. Students below 9th grade level will not be allowed to ride the bus to out of town high school activities, except with special permission of the principal.
22. Elementary students living under one and one-half miles from school and secondary students living under two miles from school are not permitted to ride except in cases of emergency.
23. For everyone's safety, no item shall be carried on the bus, which could create a hazard to any passenger, including but not limited to: live animals, skateboards, skis, glass objects, etc.

24. Pupils who refuse to obey promptly the directions of the driver or refuse to obey regulations forfeit their right to ride the bus.

USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ON SCHOOL BUSES:

Video cameras may be used on school buses when deemed advisable to monitor conduct and/or to maintain a safe environment for students and employees.

SECURITY OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE:

The content of the videotapes constitutes student records that are confidential and protected. Only those having a legitimate educational or administrative purpose shall be able to review such information. If a tape becomes the subject of a disciplinary proceeding, it shall be treated like all other evidence in the hearing as confidential and protected.