



Code of Conduct for Students Riding the Bus & at Bus Stops 2024-2025 School Year

Conduct on Buses and at Bus Stops

School bus transportation is provided to students. It can be denied to any student who violates any of the offenses described in any section of this Code.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, this Code of Conduct applies on school buses in the same way it applies in school buildings or at school. Students may be subject to suspension or expulsion for conduct on the bus, at bus stops, or while coming to or going from bus stops.

Parents shall provide transportation for any pupil whose privileges have been suspended or terminated. Students who fail to attend school during bus suspension will be marked illegally absent. Students must obey and cooperate with the bus driver, teachers, or any other persons assigned to supervise the bus or any part of the school transportation system.

Assigned seats will be mandatory on each bus grades "K-5." Students will be required to sit in their assigned seat unless otherwise directed by the driver or other supervisor. A school administrator or school bus driver may also assign seats to any student in grades 6-12 and for any period.

The bus driver has the authority to discipline the pupils on his/her bus.

Procedures for Misconduct on the Bus

The bus driver is expected to be in complete control of the bus and its passengers.

When serious misconduct occurs or when misconduct is repeated, the school bus driver is expected to report such action to the school Principal or designee. Forms are provided to each driver for this purpose.

The Principal will take whatever action he/she deems necessary to correct the situation. This action will be consistent with this Code.

Parents will be advised by the Principal when reports of misconduct are made.

The Principal and Assistant Principal are the only ones with the authority to suspend transportation privileges.

A parent of a student, whose transportation privileges are suspended, must confer with the school administration before the privilege is restored.

Students will be removed from the school bus by the building Principal if a bus must return to the school due to the student's involvement in an unsafe or uncontrollable situation. Parents will be notified immediately to pick up the student at the school.

Conduct at Bus Stops

PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHILE AT THE BUS STOP.

Students are expected to arrive at the school bus stop at least ten (10) minutes prior to pick-up time.

Students should wait off the street or roadway and conduct themselves in a responsible manner.

Students must wait on the opposite side of the street or road until the bus has stopped, engaged its flashing lights and stopped all traffic.

Students should never accept rides from strangers.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of offenses that will result in suspension or termination of transportation privileges and possibly other disciplinary action:

- Fighting, or provoking or instigating a fight;
- Assaulting a fellow students or other person on the bus;
- Smoking or possessing tobacco



- Damaging property;
- Standing, walking, refusing to remain seated;
- Throwing items on or out of the vehicle
- Hanging any body part out of the window
- Excessive noise or disruptive behavior;
- Tampering with emergency doors;
- Profane or obscene language directed towards an individual;
- Refusing to ride assigned vehicle or riding on an unassigned vehicle without permission
- Boarding vehicle at unassigned stop;
- Leaving vehicle at unassigned stop;
- Discourteous behavior, refusing to obey the driver, teachers or other supervisory personnel;
- Threatening, harassing, bullying, teasing or intimidating the bus driver or other students on the bus;
- Refusing to sit in assigned seat;
- Actions detrimental to safety or to the effective operation of the school bus or vehicle;
- Any other violations of this Code of Conduct;

Pursuant to Act 65 of 1998, a person who enters a school bus without prior authorization of the driver or a school official with intent to commit a crime or disrupt or interfere with the driver; a person who enters a school bus without prior authorization of the driver or a school official who refuses to disembark after being ordered to do so by the driver commits a misdemeanor of the third degree.

The suggested disciplinary action may be modified in accordance with the mitigating or aggravated circumstances and will be consistent with the consequences listed on pgs. 22 – 23.

Large Articles on Buses

- Large band instruments or school project items are not permitted on the bus unless they can be held on the student's lap safely.
- Items may not be placed under seats as they may become projectiles upon impact.
- Nothing can be carried on the bus that will endanger others, i.e., glass objects, ice skates, large metal objects, weapons, etc.
- Animals are not permitted on the bus (with the exceptions of those used by disabled persons).
- Nothing can be placed in the driver's compartment, doorway or aisle. In case of an accident, student must be able to exit out of windows and doors.

Audio/Video Surveillance

The School Board authorizes video and audio recordings on school buses in accordance with Applicable Law. These recordings may be used by the District or law enforcement.

Confidential Communications

Use of a student's confidential communications to school personnel in legal proceedings is governed by Applicable Law. See, for example, 42 Pa.C.S. § 5945 (relating to confidential communications to school personnel).

Information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student's Parents, the principal or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student or other persons is clearly in jeopardy.