

## School Bus Rules:

### IT'S ALL ABOUT SAFETY

Student transportation is a privilege extended to students who qualify for transportation pursuant to state statutes and local district policy. Students who do not obey the state and local regulations governing student transportation may have their transportation privileges revoked by the school district. This applies to transporting to and from school and field trips.

- Students shall learn and obey the safety rules and responsibilities and will use appropriate behavior required while on the school bus and at the bus stop.
- Students who are required to walk a distance to meet the bus must walk on the side of the road on their left (facing traffic), except on divided or multi-lane roadways. Students shall use crosswalks whenever possible.
- Students must be at their regular bus stop **five minutes prior** to scheduled stop time (the bus driver will not wait for students not at the loading area or who are not making an effort to reach the bus). Students receiving modified transportation services shall be ready at the assigned pick-up at the assigned times.
- Students must wait in a safe place, clear of traffic and away from where the bus stops. Students must maintain safe and appropriate behavior when waiting for and boarding the bus.
- The driver/attendant are in full charge of students when they are on the bus. Students shall obey instructions immediately. In cases where a principal/designee is on the bus, they are also authorized to enforce student discipline.
- Students shall not get on or off the bus while it is in motion. Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear.
- Students must occupy the seats assigned them by the bus driver/attendant. If the bus is equipped with seat belts, students must wear them.
- Students shall not be permitted in the driver's compartment while the bus is in motion. Students shall not tamper with any equipment on the bus.
- Students are not to carry on unnecessary conversation with the driver while the bus is in motion.
- Students shall be courteous and obedient to the driver/attendant
- Students shall not use profane language or obscene gestures while on the bus.
- Students shall cooperate with the bus driver in keeping the bus clean.

### *Rules (cont'd)*

- Rough or boisterous conduct will not be permitted on the bus. Students shall be absolutely quiet when the bus is approaching a railroad crossing and remain quiet until the bus is safely across the tracks.
- Students may drink only water on the bus; eating is not permitted except for **medical reasons**.
- Students should remember that misconduct or carelessness not only endangers their own safety, but the safety of other passengers.
- Students must not extend their hands, arms, head or objects through bus windows.
- Students shall not open or close the bus windows without the permission of the bus driver/attendant.
- Students shall not throw any item inside or outside the bus while boarding, riding, or leaving the bus.
- Students will not ride on the outside of the school bus at any time or attach any item to the bus.
- Firearms, knives, explosives, breakable glass, or other dangerous objects are not permitted on the bus. Animals, except those animals authorized by an IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan, are not permitted on the bus.
- No item that will block the aisle or is unsecured shall be carried on the bus. Items also cannot take the place of a student in the seat (see "Transportation of Large Articles", pg 15).
- The use, possession, or distribution of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or any other controlled substance shall not be permitted on the bus. The use of e-cigarettes is also not permitted on the bus.
- Students shall respect the property where bus stops are assigned.
- Passengers shall report damage to the bus from any cause to the driver/attendant, who will report it to the proper school officials.
- **Students and parents/guardians shall be held responsible for malicious destruction to the bus, bus stop location and/or private property.**

## School Bus Disciplinary Plan

It is the responsibility of the school bus driver to enforce all rules governing the conduct of students on the school bus. The driver shall report student noncompliance with these rules to the principal/designee in accordance with local school district policy.

The following plan is used as a guide for all school sites:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense** – First warning to student regarding loss of future riding privileges with continued offense. Student will be required to sit in front seat for five days. Notification to parent/guardian.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – One (1) to five (5) day suspension of riding privileges, depending on the seriousness of the infraction. Notification to parent/guardian.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** - Five (5) day minimum suspension of riding privileges. The actual length of the suspension depends on the seriousness of the infraction. Meeting with school administration, DOST, and parents/guardians will be held.

**Serious behaviors will result in suspension of transportation privileges for the remainder of the current school year. These may include but are not limited to:**

- **Physical harm to self or any student**
- **Possession and/or use of drugs**
- **Possession and/or use of weapons**
- **Physical harm to the driver**
- **Physical damage to the bus**
- **Bullying**
- **Objects thrown from the bus**
- **Other behaviors that interfere with school bus safety**

In addition to suspension of transportation privileges, legal action against the student and/or parents/guardians may be taken. In addition, students may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of district policies while on school buses or at authorized stops.

Transportation to and from school for students who are suspended from school bus privileges is the responsibility of the parents/guardians.

***Modified Transportation Students*** — Students receiving modified transportation services

may be suspended from the bus. The 504 Committee or IEP Committee must review any suspension of a student with a current 504 Accommodation Plan or IEP. Parent/guardian shall transport their student in the event of bus suspension, unless otherwise determined by a 504 Accommodation plan or IEP.

The Department of Student Transportation shall be notified by the 504 Committee or IEP Committee of any disabilities that might exhibit problematic behaviors while on the bus. Information will be shared with the individual bus driver/attendant. The Modified Transportation Form should include:

- Problematic behaviors
- Special disciplinary interventions
- Any restrictions
- Health concerns
- Modified transportation justification
- All demographic information requested
- All emergency information requested