

## **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY, RULES & DISCIPLINE**

Riding a school bus is a privilege, but not a right. Each student who lives 2.5 miles away from an attendance center is, by law, provided the opportunity for school sponsored transportation. However, if a student's behavior is deemed dangerous or if a student becomes a distraction for the driver, that student may be assigned a seat, removed from the bus for a short or long term suspension or may be removed for the remainder of the school year. The school district is not liable to provide alternative transportation if a student loses their bus privileges due to behavioral issues.

The bus driver's number one job is to get students to and from school safely. If a student's behavior distracts a bus driver, then the student runs the risk of being assigned a seat or further discipline consequences and up to revoking the student's ability to ride the bus. Therefore, students must not be a distraction and must follow the bus driver's instructions without any argument. The driver simply does not have time to discuss things during the route as this is a distraction from their focus on driving.

### **Bus Rules**

- Bus riders must conduct themselves in a respectful manner. The use of profane language is prohibited.
- Bus riders must obey all driver instruction without argument or discussion. Failure to follow directions will be considered a serious offense.
- All school vehicles are an extension of the school. Therefore, all school rules are in force while riding the bus.
- Riders may not play music or share any audio without the use of headphones. Any music or audio played out loud will be considered a distraction and therefore a safety hazard. Cell phones and other devices being misused may be taken away during routes or trips.
- Riders may be assigned seats at any time at the driver's discretion.
- Riders or parents should notify the school office or driver in advance if their student will not be riding the morning route. When possible, this should be done at least one day in advance.
- Students should not eat or drink on the bus. Hands should be kept in the bus at all times. Feet and arms should not be in the aisle to block other

riders when boarding or unloading. Students should sit facing the front as this is the safest position in case of a collision. Students should not be lying down in the seats.

- Aisles should be kept clear of book bags, coats, or other articles.
- Students should use quiet voices for conversation and quiet laughter. Any students who the driver feels is being too noisy may face discipline action.

\*\*This list is not all inclusive. All school rules will be in force on the bus.

### **SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

A rider may be disciplined in various ways based on their initial behavior and their reaction to the bus driver and their interaction with the driver.

Discipline may include any and / or all of the following:

Assigned seat

Office referral

Detention

Short term or long term suspension from riding the bus (Parents must provide transportation)

In School Suspension

Out of School Suspension

Permanent removal from the bus

\*\*The bus driver will fill out a discipline form anytime there is an incident on the bus or boarding or unloading the bus. The form will be given to the building principal. Parents may be contacted by the driver or the principal depending on the situation.

\*\*Parents are asked to work with the bus driver and school so that the bus route is safe for all riders. A student that proves to be a safety risk to other students or a distraction to the driver shall be removed from the bus if the behavior cannot be corrected.