

STUDENT SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR

The need for strict adherence to school bus discipline is critical. The potential safety related problems that could arise are undefinable. The driver needs to have discipline in order to devote his/her full attention to the hazards of the road. A school bus traveling 30 MPH is covering 44 feet per second. The average time it takes a driver to check the rear view mirror is 3 seconds ($3 \times 44 = 132$ feet). Now add the factors of a disturbance in the back of the bus as they are approaching a bend in the roadway, coming into an intersection, or possibly headed for a student pick-up with children playing near the curb. This is precious time that the driver is not looking at the road ahead. Children causing a disturbance are actually putting themselves, other children and the driver in a very jeopardous position.

A. Student Regulations

When riding a school bus, students shall:

1. be expected to walk a reasonable distance to the bus stop.
2. arrive at the bust stop 5 minutes before scheduled pick up time; the drivers will not wait for students to walk from their home to the bus.
3. behave at the school bus stop in an orderly fashion not threatening life, limb, or property of any individual.
4. load in an orderly manner and go directly to assigned seats. Students must remain seated keeping aisle and exits clear.
5. respect the driver and be aware that he /she is in charge at all times and should be obeyed promptly.
6. be courteous, no profane language or gestures will be tolerated.
7. keep noise on the bus to a minimum. Classroom behavior is expected.
8. not be in violation of safety procedures, i.e. proper seating, proper loading and unloading procedures, proper street crossing procedures, no fighting, pushing, shoving, tripping.
9. be aware that **OHIO STATE LAW** prohibits eating, drinking, chewing gum, or the use of tobacco products on the bus.
10. not be destructive to the interior/exterior of the bus and should take an active role in litter control inside the bus.
11. not throw or pass objects on, out of, or into the bus.
12. not put objects or body parts outside of bus windows.
13. carry on the bus only objects that can be held in their laps. Animals of any kind are not permitted. Large objects and school projects may need to be transported by parents.
14. ride only their regularly assigned route. Students will board and disembark only at their designated stops.
15. have written permission from their parent or guardian and signed by the principal of their school, if they wish to leave the bus at a stop other than their normal stop.
16. go directly to their bus upon dismissal from school and students are expected to go directly home when they leave the bus.
17. use the emergency door only in an emergency situation, or as directed by the driver.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE RULES WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND STUDENT MAY LOSE BUS RIDING PRIVILEGES. RIDING A BUS IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT.

Disciplinary Action

In the event that disciplinary action is required, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. **First Offense** – Driver will submit a written conduct report citing specific actions of the student. The Transportation Supervisor will forward a copy of the report to the child's parents along with a copy of the bus rules and regulations. A copy of the report will also be forwarded to the building Principal.
2. **Second Offense** – Driver will submit a written conduct report citing specific actions of the student. The report will be sent to the building principal. The principal shall review the problem with the student and call the parents so that they will be aware of the situation. Written notification of the incident shall also be sent to the parent by the building principal.
3. **Third Offense** – Driver will submit a written conduct report citing specific actions of the student. The report will be sent to the building principal. The principal shall discipline the student with loss of bus privilege for up to 10 days or other suitable alternative. The Transportation office and parents must be notified by telephone with written report to follow.
4. **Fourth Offense** – Same procedure as in #3 except exclusion from bus service may be for up to thirty (30) days after notification of parents.

In the event of flagrant misconduct, any of the four disciplinary actions may be initiated.

The Superintendent, Superintendent Designee, Principals, or Assistant Principals are authorized to suspend or remove pupils from school bus riding privileges.

In all instances of disciplinary action, parents have the right to appeal an administrative decision through the Superintendent.

BOARD POLICY

SOURCE: Board of Education Resolution

DATE: June 20, 1989