

STUDENT DISCIPLINE ON SCHOOL BUSES

Transporting of students to and from school and/or school sponsored activities is a vital part of the School District's role in providing for a free and appropriate education for the youth in our county. The fundamental goal of the transportation department is to provide reliable and safe transportation for all students residing in areas served by the School District. Good behavior on the part of students while being transported contributes positively to the effectiveness, efficiency, and safety of the School District's transportation program. Therefore, it is important for parents/guardians and students to understand that the student behavior code set by the School District and individual schools are applicable to students while being transported via school bus. While school itself is concerned about good behavior for various reasons, another factor is involved when we talk of good behavior on the school bus. That factor is SAFETY. Inappropriate and potentially dangerous behavior by students on school buses is one of the greatest threats to safety of students and bus drivers. The ability school bus drivers to drive defensively, to be alert to all driving hazards, and to make quick decisions is often dependent on orderly and well behaved student passengers. It is evident that high standards of discipline and good behavior must be maintained at all times in order that drivers perform their work well. The manner and proficiency with which they handle student discipline problems will determine to a great extent how successful they will be as school bus drivers.

In addition to the applicability of the School District's Student Code of Conduct and local school rules and regulations on student conduct, the following regulations shall apply to all students riding School District-owned or leased buses/vehicles:

1. Students are responsible to the bus driver while riding the bus.
1. Students shall not ride school buses on trips other than regular runs without filing permits with the principal that have been authorized by their parent(s) or guardian(s) for such trips.
2. Students shall be required to get on and off buses only at stops approved for them and at no other stops without the written approval of the principal.
1. Students should observe classroom conduct (except for ordinary conversation) at all times when getting on, off, or riding the bus and shall be subject to all school rules and regulations.

Students should adhere to the following rules when boarding and riding school buses:

1. Be on time at the designated pickup sites;
2. Stay off public roads while waiting for the bus;
3. Wait for the bus to stop before attempting to board;
4. Keep all body parts inside the bus at all times;
5. Assist in keeping the bus safe and clean;

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6. Refrain from loud talking or behavior that may divert the driver's attention. Profane, indecent, or abusive language will not be permitted.
7. Refrain from damaging the bus (pay for any damage to seats, windows, etc.);
8. Do not bring bottles, cans, food, balloons, etc. onto the bus;
9. Leave no books, lunches, etc. on buses;
10. Keep aisles of the bus unobstructed at all times;
11. Help with the comfort and safety of smaller students;
12. Do not throw anything out of bus windows;
13. Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion;
14. Remain quiet when the bus is approaching a railroad crossing stop; and,
15. In case of a road emergency, remain in the bus or follow the driver's instructions.

Students should adhere to the following requirements when exiting and crossing in front of the bus:

1. Make certain that the bus has come to a complete stop, that the door is still open, and that the stop signal is extended;
2. Cross in front of the bus within sight and hearing of the driver, look both ways, and stay out of line of traffic until the path across the roadway is free from danger;
3. Proceed across the roadway upon signal from driver or bus patrol; and,
4. Proceed with extreme caution across four-lane roadways.

See JGG for further information on student discipline on school buses.

SOURCE: Winston County Board of Education, Double Springs, AL

ADOPTED: JULY 7, 1998

LEGAL REF.: The Code of Alabama, 16-8-7 to 9, 16-8-13 to 14, 16-13-51, 16-27-1 to -6, 16-39-11; Conecuh County Board of Education v. Campbell, 162 So. 2d 233 (1964); Stout v. Jefferson Co. Bd. of Ed., 419 F.2d 1211 (5th Cir. 1969); Carr v. Montgomery Board of Ed., 377 F. Supp. 1123 (M.D. Ala. 1974).