

5.19—CONDUCT TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Students are subject to the same rules of conduct while traveling to and from school as they are while on school grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate student code of conduct rules.

The preceding paragraph also applies to student conduct while on school buses. The driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus until every passenger is seated. Disciplinary measures for problems related to bus behavior shall include suspension or expulsion from school, or suspending or terminating the student's transportation privileges. Transporting students to and from school who have lost their transportation privileges shall become the responsibility of the student's parent or legal guardian.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-19-119 (b)

Date Adopted: 8-28-03

SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER SAFETY AND CONDUCT

Please review these rules for conduct with your child and be sure he/she understands them. Buses are full, and the drivers have little time to watch children. They were hired to *drive*. The school bus is an extension of the school. It is a valuable and expensive item of equipment and proper attitudes must be developed for its use and care.

Parents should impress on students the correct procedure in establishing a safe route to the bus stop. Develop proper attitudes and understanding of the right-of-way of motorists. Point out how unsafe acts can lead to accidents.

Bus service is a privilege, *not* a right, which may be revoked. Students who are eligible to ride may ride as long as they control themselves and abide by the rules.

Passengers on school buses must conduct themselves so that their actions do not place in jeopardy the safety and well-being of themselves or any other individual. Video cameras are used on the bus to assist in monitoring student behaviors.

In the event that misconduct occurs, authorized personnel shall implement procedures as outlined by the superintendent. If misconduct is of serious enough nature to warrant withdrawing the privilege of riding the bus from the individual, Student Discipline Policy 5.17 shall be applied. The following "Rules for Bus Passenger's Conduct" shall be used in informing students of acceptable behavior.

RULES FOR BUS PASSENGER'S CONDUCT

- Students must ride their assigned bus and are responsible for their possessions.
- Be on time; arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early.
- Do not stand or play in road while waiting for the bus. Stand back about 10 feet from the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- If students must cross the roadway to board the bus, look in both directions for traffic, wait until the bus driver signals before crossing the road. Students should walk in front of the bus in single file, do not run. Enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others.
- The first duty of the passengers is to obey the driver's directions promptly. The driver has the same responsibility and authority as a teacher in controlling discipline. There must be an attitude of respect and cooperation on the part of each student toward the bus driver. Conversation with the driver while the bus is in motion should be kept to a minimum.
- Do not extend head or arms out of windows. Keep your head, arms, and hands inside the bus at all times. Never open the windows without the driver's permission.
- Be courteous to the driver and to fellow pupils, keeping hands off other people at all times.
- See that your conversation is clean and never loud or boisterous. Talk in normal tones. Use of profane language on a school bus is forbidden by law. Obscene gestures are prohibited.

- Do not consume any food or beverage on the bus.
- Do not call out to passers-by.
- Help keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly. Keep the aisle of the bus clear. Keep books, musical instruments, and all other objects on lap or under the seat, not in the aisle.
- Large items such as tubas, science projects, skateboards, etc. cannot be transported on the bus.
- Animals and insects are not to be transported on the bus.
- Do not possess or use any form of tobacco on the bus.
- Do not damage or abuse bus equipment. Keep your feet off the seats.
- Do not loiter in or around a bus while on school grounds.
- Do not leave bus without the driver's consent, except on arrival at home and at school. Make sure that the road is clear and get the driver's signal when you must cross the road, to and from the bus.
- Keep seated until the bus comes to a complete stop. Enter and leave bus by front door ONLY, except in emergency. Stay in your seat at all times, except when entering and exiting the bus.

GUIDELINES FOR BUS DISCIPLINE
(In accordance with Policy 5.17)

The improper student behavior shall be categorized as follows:

A. Category I

1. Attire, which would be inappropriate in the school.
2. Gambling on a school bus.
3. Distribution of petitions or other printed matter not approved in advance by the principal. (See Policy No. 5.17, section 13, page 2 for further criteria.)
4. Violations of established bus rules or regulations.
5. Littering when on a school bus, including the parking lot.

B. Category II

1. Damage, destruction, or theft of private or public property valued at less than \$100.
2. Disregard of reasonable directions or commands given by authorized school personnel, such as the bus driver.
3. Violation of statutory or constitutional regulations.
4. Possession, or distribution of tobacco products or smoking paraphernalia (including, but not limited to, lighters, matches, rolling papers, cigarette holders, and pipes) during the school day, whether on or off school property, or during a school-sponsored activity at any time of day, whether on or off school property.
5. Possession of hand-held laser pointers.
6. Disruption and interference with the operation of the bus, including horseplay, mimicking, name calling, etc.
7. Possession of any type of pornographic material.

C. Category III

1. Possession or use of narcotics, drugs, anabolic steroids, alcohol, or other controlled substances as defined by statute. (See Policy No. 5.17, section 6, page 2 for further criteria and exceptions.)
2. Assault, bullying, fighting, physical abuse, extortion, persistent or severe harassment, and/or verbal abuse of another student.
3. Verbal abuse, extortion, or harassment of a school employee, whether on or off school premises.
4. Possession of a knife/replica of a knife or any instrument or article that might be injurious to a person or property.
5. Possession and/or use of fireworks, stink bombs, or any incendiary device.
6. Falsely reporting a fire or setting off a fire alarm.
7. Damage, destruction, or theft of private or public property valued at more than \$100 but less than \$1000.
8. Use of tobacco, lighters, or matches on a school bus.
9. Indecent exposure/act on a school bus.
10. Distribution of any type of pornographic material.

D. Category IV

1. Assault or physical abuse of a school employee, whether on or off school premises.
2. Purchasing of, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of narcotics, drugs, anabolic steroids, alcohol, substances portrayed as drugs, or other controlled substances as defined by statute.
3. Possession and/or use of a knife/replica of a knife or any instrument or article that might be injurious to a person or property in an attempt to threaten or cause harm to another person.
4. Possession of any firearm/replica of a firearm or other weapon prohibited on the school campus by law.
5. Arson, bomb threat, or terroristic threat
6. Damage, destruction, or theft of private or public property valued at more than \$1000.

The appropriate disciplinary actions for each listed category of improper activity follow:

- A. Category I—Principal or designee’s discretion;
 1st infraction--warning and parent contact
 2nd infraction--parent contact
 3rd infraction-- suspension from bus, min.-1 day, max.-3 days
 4th (and any subsequent) infraction--suspension from bus indefinitely
- B. Category II—Principal or designee’s discretion;
 1st infraction--min. 3 day suspension from bus
 2nd infraction--min. 10 day suspension from bus
 3rd (and any subsequent) infraction--suspension from bus indefinitely
- C. Category III
 1st infraction--
 a) Parent/guardian conference, and
 b) suspension from bus, min.-10 days, max.-indefinitely, and
 c) referral to Principal for further disciplinary action
 2nd infraction--
 a) Parent/guardian conference, and
 b) suspension from bus for the remainder of the year, and
 c) referral to Principal for further disciplinary action
- D. Category IV
 1st (and any subsequent) infraction
 a) Parent/guardian conference, and
 b) suspension from bus not to exceed one calendar year, and
 c) referral to Principal for further disciplinary action

Revised: 6/22/06