

## SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

The district's goal is to provide safe transportation to and from school for students. Students should be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pick up time. It is a privilege, not a right, to ride a school bus in the State of Ohio.

### I. Bus Behavior Policy

Students who have the opportunity to ride district school buses may do so as long as they display behavior that is reasonable and safe. Choosing to behave inappropriately may result in a loss of bus riding privileges. The bus driver is responsible for the safety of all students on the bus. The building principal or his/her designee is available to provide assistance to the driver and will determine consequences for misbehavior. A riding suspension applies to **all** buses unless otherwise determined by school officials. The responsibility for student supervision by the district shall begin when the student boards the bus in the morning and is retained until the child leaves the bus at the end of the day or until released to the parent/guardian in a manner consistent with guidelines on release of students.

### II. TRANSPORTING OF SCHOOL RELATED/NONRELATED ITEMS

Under the Laws and Rules for the Operation of School Buses in the State of Ohio, it is stated: "...no materials, including: guns, loaded or unloaded; weapons; gasoline cans, empty or full; animals, or any other item deemed dangerous or of an objectionable nature are transported in the school bus when children are being transported"

Band instruments that are small enough to be held in the student's lap will be allowed on the bus. Instruments may not be in the aisle or take the space of a student on a seat. Baseball and softball bats or any other recreational equipment will not be allowed on school routes. Tape recorders, CD players and other electronic devices transported on the school bus should be appropriately packaged. Damage to personal items is not covered by the district's insurance.

### III. BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES AND CONSEQUENCES – (PK – GRADE 5)

- a. Class I Offenses – including, but not limited to:
  - i. Eating or drinking on the bus
  - ii. Excessive noise
  - iii. Excessive horseplay
  - iv. Spitting
  - v. Leaving seat/Standing while bus is in motion
  - vi. Liquid containers in any form, except those intended for lunch box use
  - vii. Riding unassigned bus without permission or using unassigned bus stop
  - viii. Disrespectful to driver, district employees, or other students
  - ix. Improper use of personal electronic devices
  - x. Other offenses as reported by the driver
  
- b. Class II Offenses – including by not limited to
  - i. Hanging out of window
  - ii. Throwing/Shooting of any object inside or out of the bus
  - iii. Physical aggression against any person
  - iv. Use of tobacco or any controlled substance
  - v. Vandalism to bus (restitution will be made)
  - vi. Holding or attempting to hold any portion of the exterior of the bus
  - vii. Lighting of matches, fireworks or any flammable object or substance
  - viii. Unauthorized (a) entering or leaving the bus, (b) use of emergency door, (c) tampering with bus equipment
  - ix. Excessive Profanity, verbal abuse, harassment, position of unacceptable material
  - x. Other offenses as reported by driver and/or principal

c. Consequences –

Consequences may include, but are not limited to, those listed below. Severe and habitual problems may carry further disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

- i. Class I – Bus drivers may offer up to 3 verbal and/or written warnings to students prior to referring discipline to principal.
  1. First Offense
    - a. Warning – Parent notification by principal or his/her designee
  2. Second Offense
    - a. Warning – Parent notification and 1 to 5 school days loss of recess
  3. Third Offense
    - a. 1- 5 days suspension of bus services
    - b. Possible loss of all bus service for 45 school days
    - c. Mandatory Parent/Principal meeting before service resumes
  4. Fourth Offense
    - a. 5-10 days suspension of bus services
    - b. Possible loss of all bus service for 45 school days
    - c. Mandatory Parent/Principal meeting before service resumes
  5. Fifth Offense
    - a. Loss of all bus service for 90 days
- ii. Class II – Automatic referral to principal
  1. First Offense
    - a. 1 to 5 school days suspension of bus services
  2. Second Offense
    - a. 1 to 5 school days suspension of bus services
    - b. Possible loss of all bus service for 90 school days
    - c. Mandatory Parent/Principal meeting before service resumes
  3. Third Offense
    - a. 5 to 10 school day suspension of bus services
    - b. Possible loss of all bus service for 90 school days
    - c. Mandatory Parent/Principal meeting before service resumes
  4. Fourth Offense
    - a. Loss of bus service for 90 school days
  5. Fifth Offense
    - a. Loss of bus service for full school year and/or expulsion

NOTE: Riding the bus is an extension of the school day. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats. The bullying/sexual/racial/religious harassment policy and the weapons policy of the district shall be strictly enforced on the bus and at school. District owned video/audio equipment may be in use at any time.

IV. BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES AND CONSEQUENCES – (GRADE 6 – GRADE 12)

- a. Class I Offenses – including, but not limited to:
  - i. Eating or drinking on the bus
  - ii. Excessive noise
  - iii. Excessive horseplay
  - iv. Spitting
  - v. Leaving seat/Standing while bus is in motion
  - vi. Liquid containers in any form, except those intended for lunch box use
  - vii. Riding unassigned bus without permission or using unassigned bus stop
  - viii. Disrespectful to driver, district employees, other students
  - ix. Improper use of personal electronic devices
  - x. Other offenses as reported by the driver

- b. Class II Offenses – including by not limited to
  - i. Hanging out of window
  - ii. Throwing/Shooting of any object inside or out of the bus
  - iii. Physical aggression against any person
  - iv. Use of tobacco or any controlled substance
  - v. Vandalism to bus (restitution will be made)
  - vi. Holding or attempting to hold any portion of the exterior of the bus
  - vii. Lighting of matches, fireworks or any flammable object or substance
  - viii. Unauthorized (a) entering or leaving the bus, (b) use of emergency door, (c) tampering with bus equipment
  - ix. Excessive Profanity, verbal abuse, harassment, possession of unacceptable material
  - x. Other offenses as reported by driver and/or principal

c. Consequences –

Consequences may include, but are not limited to, those listed below. Severe and habitual problems may carry further disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

- i. Class I - Bus drivers may offer up to 3 verbal and/or written warnings to students prior to referring discipline to principal.
  - 1. First Offense
    - a. Warning – Parent notification by principal or his/her designee
  - 2. Second Offense
    - a. Warning – Parent notification and 1 to 5 days of detention/Saturday school
  - 3. Third Offense
    - a. 1- 5 days suspension of bus services
    - b. Possible loss of all bus service for 45 school days
    - c. Mandatory Parent/Principal meeting before service resumes
  - 4. Fourth Offense
    - a. 5-10 days suspension of bus services
    - b. Possible loss of all bus service for 45 school days
    - c. Mandatory Parent/Principal meeting before service resumes
  - 5. Fifth Offense
    - a. Loss of all bus service for 90 days
- ii. Class II – Automatic referral to principal
  - 1. First Offense
    - a. 1 to 5 school days suspension of bus services
  - 2. Second Offense
    - a. 1 to 5 school days suspension of bus services
    - b. Possible loss of all bus service for 90 school days
    - c. Mandatory Parent/Principal meeting before service resumes
  - 3. Third Offense
    - a. 5 to 10 school day suspension of bus services
    - b. Possible loss of all bus service for 90 school days
    - c. Mandatory Parent/Principal meeting before service resumes
  - 4. Fourth Offense
    - Loss of bus service for 90 school days
  - 5. Fifth Offense
    - Loss of bus service for full school year and/or expulsion

V. NOTE: Riding the bus is an extension of the school day. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats. The bullying/sexual/racial/religious harassment policy and the weapons policy of the district shall be strictly enforced on the bus and at school. District owned video/audio equipment may be in use at any time.