

## SCHOOL BUS CONDUCT AND SAFETY

We know that you share our concern for the safety of every student who rides a school bus. The safety of students during their transportation to and from school is a responsibility which students and their parents/guardians share with bus drivers and school officials. We ask you to impress upon your child that it is absolutely necessary to follow the rules, and to obey the bus driver. It is very important that you review these rules and responsibilities with your child.

*\*Students are assigned to buses according to their parents' legal residence. If, due to special circumstances, such as a parent's daily hours of employment, adjustments must be made, a request, in writing, should be made to the principal/assistant principal. Temporary, one-day changes are not allowed. We also cannot accept telephone requests. Please understand that these procedures are in place for the safety of all our children.*

Please review the following safety guidelines with your child(ren) to ensure understanding of expectations, rules, regulations, and consequences of inappropriate behavior. Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. This privilege may be revoked or denied if rules are not obeyed.

### **\*Duties and Responsibilities of Students on Buses\***

- Obey the driver promptly.
- Distracting objects such as toys, rocks, pets, etc. are not allowed on the bus.
- Be at the designated stop, and ready to board the bus on time. The driver is responsible for maintaining the assigned bus schedule, and cannot wait for tardy students.
- Help keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly.
- Refrain from damaging/abusing the cushions or other bus equipment. students will be required to pay for bus damages.
- Consumption of food/drink is not allowed on the bus.
- The use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products is strictly prohibited.
- Profane language is strictly prohibited.
- Students are not permitted to use or possess devices such as radios, cell phones, pagers, laser lights/pens, compact disc players, etc.

### **Bus Safety Rules**

- Stay off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before attempting to get on/off the bus.
- Leave the bus only with the consent of the driver.
- Enter/exit the bus only by the front door, except in the case of an emergency.
- Do not lean out of windows. Keep head, hands, and objects inside the bus.
- When crossing a street/highway at a designated bus stop:
  - Make sure the bus has completely stopped, the door is open, and the stop arm is extended.
  - Look both ways, and do not run across the street/road.
  - On signal from the driver/crossing guard, walk quickly and directly to your designated area.

## **Bus Conduct**

Under *General Statute 115C-399*, the principal has the authority to suspend a student from riding the bus or may prosecute a student for the following offenses:

1. Delaying the bus schedule.
2. Refusing to meet the bus at the designated stop.
3. Excessive noise during the route.
4. Playing, throwing objects, or otherwise distracting the driver's attention.
5. Fighting, smoking, using profanity, or refusing to obey instructions.
6. Refusing to remain in assigned seat, or walking up and down the aisle.
7. Damaging bus equipment, such as writing on seats, punching holes in seats, ripping/tearing cushions or foam on front, sides, or back of seat.
8. Tampering with bus equipment.
9. Unauthorized leaving of the bus.

### **General Guidelines Regarding Consequences for Inappropriate Bus Behavior**

FIRST OFFENSE:	Conference with student, and warning. Parent is notified.
SECOND OFFENSE:	Parent will be asked to accompany student to office for conference.
THIRD OFFENSE:	Short-term suspension for up to three (3) days.
FOURTH OFFENSE:	Short-term suspension for up to five (5) days.
FIFTH OFFENSE:	Short-term suspension for up to ten (10) days.

### **SEVERE CLAUSE**

**The principal/designee reserves the right to suspend a student's bus riding privileges, with providing a first and/or second "chance" for such activities as fighting, profanity, and disrespect to driver, tampering with/damaging bus equipment, etc.**

**The principal/designee will make every possible effort to contact the parent by telephone when the severe clause is needed. Written documentation will also be provided.**