

RULES FOR STUDENTS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

1. The driver is in full charge of the bus and pupils during periods in which students are being transported. Pupils must obey the driver promptly and willingly to avoid losing bus riding privileges.
2. Pupils shall ride their regularly assigned bus at all times. Students may not ride buses other than those assigned.
3. Unless written permission by the parent or guardian has been received and approved by the Principal, no pupil shall be permitted to leave the bus except at his or her regular stop.
4. Each pupil may be assigned a seat in which he will be seated at all times, unless permission to change is given by the school principal and/or driver.
5. Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct must be observed at all times.
6. Pupils are to assist in keeping the bus clean by keeping their waste paper off the floor. Pupils will not throw refuse out of the windows. Eating and drinking is not allowed on the bus.
7. No pupil will smoke or light matches on a school bus.
8. No pupil shall at any time extend his or her head, hands or arms out of the windows, whether school bus is in motion or standing still.
9. Pupils must see that they have nothing in their possession that may cause injury to another, such as sticks, breakable containers, any type of firearms, straps or pins extending from their clothing. Also, no animals/reptiles are permitted on the bus.
10. Each pupil must see that his/her books and personal belongings are kept out of the aisle.
11. Pupils should refrain from talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion except in the case of an emergency.
12. No pupil shall sit in the driver's seat at any time.
13. Pupils are to remain seated while the bus is in motion, and they are not to get on or off the bus until it has come to a full stop.
14. Pupils must leave the bus in an orderly manner and must obey the rules and regulations for entering and exiting a bus. Students are not to cross the roadway until consent by the school bus driver has been given and the student has double-checked for safety conditions. When boarding or leaving the bus, pupils should be in view of the driver at all times. Any misconduct or disregard for these rules will be reported to the building principal.
15. Pupils must cross the roadway at least 10 feet in front of the school bus and never behind it.
16. Pupils must not stand or play in the roadway while waiting for the bus. Pupils should leave home early enough to arrive at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is due. When the bus approaches the stop, students shall remain a safe distance from the street and remain at the bus stop until the bus comes to a complete stop. There will be no pushing or shoving while boarding the bus.

17. Self-discipline should be exercised by pupils at the bus loading area at all times. Students should load and unload in a quiet and orderly manner.
18. Pupils who have to walk to and from a school bus loading zone, should utilize existing sidewalks wherever possible. While sidewalks are unavailable, students should walk on the left-hand side facing the oncoming traffic.
19. Students' misconduct on a bus will be sufficient reason to discontinue providing bus transportation to those students involved.
20. In the event of an actual emergency, emergency exit procedures, as established by the emergency exit drills, will be followed.
21. Parents of students damaging school buses will be responsible for proper reimbursement to the school district.
22. Parents are not allowed to board a school bus without the expressed permission of the bus company.
  - a. Discipline on school buses is probably one of the biggest problems confronting school bus drivers today. Much emphasis has rightly been placed on it by the public. Where once the burden of responsibility was placed only with the bus driver, it has become a community effort of cooperation with parents, school committee, administrators and bus driver. The Bus Contractor Terminal Manager may board bus in conjunction with the Building Principal to reemphasize the school bus rules and regulations.
  - b. School bus transportation is an extension of a school classroom and should be carried over into the school bus in that manner.
23. Concerns or complaints should be addressed through the School Principal.

Reference:

- Regulations for Transporting School Children by the Registry of Motor Vehicles - Approved March 2, 1992, Updated August, 1994

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