

## **School Bus Discipline Policy**

The following rules and regulations were written in the hope that these guidelines will help us 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 time. **It is a privilege, not a right, to ride school buses in the State of Texas.**

### **I. BUS DISCIPLINE 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 follow unacceptable behavior will result in loss of bus service. The bus driver is responsible for the safety and discipline of students on the bus. The building principal is available to give assistance to the driver and will determine consequences of misbehavior and the reinstatement of bus service for the offending students should a suspension become necessary. A suspension applies to all buses unless otherwise designated 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 Texas, it is stated: "...no materials, including: guns, loaded or unloaded; 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 will be allowed on the bus are those that are small enough to be held in the student's lap. Instruments may not be in the aisle or take the space of a student. Baseball and softball bats or any other unacceptable recreational equipment will not be allowed on regular buses. Tape recorders/ CD players used for instructional purposes should be appropriately packaged. Damage to personal items is not covered by the District's insurance coverage.

### **III. BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES AND CONSEQUENCES - (Pre-K-5TH GRADES)**

#### **A. Class I Offenses-** including, but not limited to

1. Eating or drinking (sodas, fruit drinks, etc) on bus. Bottled water will be allowed during hot months.
2. Excessive noise
3. Excessive horseplay
4. Spitting
5. Leaving seat/standing while bus is in motion

6. Squirt guns/liquid containers in any form, except those intended for lunch box use
7. Radios, tape recorders, and electronic games are not allowed on the bus (permitted with principal approval on long trips)
8. Riding unassigned bus without permission or using unassigned bus stop.
9. Other offenses as reported by the driver or principal

**B. Class II Offenses-** including, but not limited to

1. Hanging out of window
2. Throwing/shooting of any object inside or out of bus
3. Physical aggression against any person
4. Use of tobacco or any controlled substance
5. Vandalism to bus (restitution will be made)
6. Holding onto/or attempting to hold onto any portion of the exterior of the bus
7. Lighting of matches, fireworks or any flammable object or substance
8. Unauthorized (a)entering or leaving bus, (b)use of emergency door, (c)tampering with bus equipment
9. Profanity, verbal abuse, harassment, obscene gestures or possession of unacceptable material
10. Other offenses as reported by driver or principal

**C. Consequences-**

Listed below are consequences for behavior problems encountered on the bus. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, the schedule listed below. Severe and habitual problems may also carry further disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

1. *Class I*
  - a. First Offense - Warning
  - b. Second Offense - Warning or 1 to 5 days of SAC suspension
  - c. Third Offense - 1 to 5 days suspension of bus services
    - Possible loss of all bus service for 90 days
    - Parent/Principal meeting (optional)
  - d. Fourth Offense
    - 5 to10 days suspension of bus services
    - Possible loss of all bus service for 90 days
    - Parent/Principal meeting
  - e. Fifth Offense - Loss of all bus service for 90 days
2. *Class II*
  - a. First Offense – Warning or 1 to 5 days of SAC suspension
  - b. Second Offense – 1 to 5 days suspension of bus services

- Possible loss of all bus service for 90 days
- Parent/Principal meeting (optional)
- c. Third Offense - 5 to 10 days suspension of bus services
  - Possible loss of all bus service for 90 days
  - Parent/Principal meeting
- d. Fourth Offense - loss of bus service for 90 days

**NOTE:** The bus is an extension of the school day. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats. The sexual/racial/religious harassment policy and the weapons policy of the District shall be strictly enforced on the school bus as well as at school. Video/Audio equipment may be in use at any time. Students will not be told when recording is in progress.

#### **IV. BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES AND CONSEQUENCES- (6TH-12TH GRADES)**

##### **A. Class I Offenses-** including, but not limited to

1. Spitting
2. Horseplay
3. Excessive noise
4. False identification
5. Eating or drinking (sodas, fruit drinks, etc) on bus. Bottled water will be allowed during hot months.
6. Riding unassigned bus without permission or using unassigned bus stop
7. Leaving seat/standing while bus is in motion
8. Squirt guns/liquid type containers in any form, except those intended for lunch box use
9. Radios, tape recorders, and electronic games are not allowed on the bus (permitted with principal approval on long trips)
10. Other offenses as reported by the driver or principal

##### **B. Class II Offenses-** including, but not limited to

1. Hanging out of windows
2. Throwing/shooting of any object inside or out of bus
3. Physical aggression against any person
4. Use of tobacco or any controlled substance
5. Vandalism to bus (restitution will be made)
6. Lighting of matches, firecrackers or any flammable object or substance
7. Holding onto/or attempting to hold onto any portion of the exterior of the bus
8. Unauthorized (a)entering or leaving bus, (b)use of emergency door, (c)tampering with bus equipment

9. Profanity, verbal abuse, harassment, obscene gestures or possession of unacceptable material
10. Riding or attempting to ride any bus after receiving a suspension
11. Other offenses as reported by the driver or principal

**C. Consequences-**

Listed below are consequences for behavior problems encountered on the bus. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, the schedule listed below. Severe and habitual problems may also carry further disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

1. *Class I*
  - a. First Offense - Warning or 1 to 5 days SAC suspension
  - b. Second Offense - 1 to 5 days suspension
  - c. Third Offense
    - 10-day minimum suspension
    - Possible loss of all bus service for 90 days
    - Parent/Principal meeting (optional)
  - d. Fourth Offense - Loss of bus service for 90 days
2. *Class II*
  - a. First Offense - 5 days suspension of bus services
  - b. Second Offense – 5 to 10 days suspension of bus service
    - Possible loss of all bus service for 90 days
    - Parent/Principal meeting (optional)
  - c. Third Offense
    - 10-day minimum suspension of bus services
    - Possible loss of all bus service for 90 days
    - Parent/Principal meeting (optional)
  - d. Fourth Offense - loss of bus service for 90 days

**NOTE:** The bus is an extension of the school day. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats. The sexual/racial/religious harassment policy and the weapons policy of the District will be strictly enforced on the school bus as well as at school. Video/Audio equipment may be in use at any time. Students will not be told when recording is in progress.