

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

The following regulations pertain to school bus conduct and are intended to ensure the safety and welfare of the students, the bus driver and other drivers on the road and to ensure safety and proper maintenance of school buses.

Students will:

1. be careful in approaching bus stops, walk on the left facing oncoming traffic and be sure that the road is clear both ways before crossing the highway;
2. be on time at the bus stop in order to permit the bus to follow the time schedule;
3. sit in assigned seats, bus drivers have the right to assign a student to a seat in the bus and to expect reasonable conduct similar to conduct expected in a classroom;
4. reach assigned seat in the bus without disturbing or crowding other students and remain seated while the bus is moving;
5. obey the driver promptly and respectfully and recognize that he/she has an important responsibility and that it is everyone's duty to help ensure safety;
6. keep the bus clean and sanitary, refrain from chewing gum or consuming candy, food or drinks on the bus at any time;
7. refrain from loud talking or laughing (unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and might result in a serious accident);
8. keep head, arms and hands inside the bus at all times;
9. be courteous to fellow students and to the bus driver;
10. treat bus equipment as one would treat valuable furniture in his/her home (damage to the school bus is strictly forbidden) and
11. remain seated until the bus stops, wait for the signal from the bus driver and cross in front of the bus.

Failure of a student to follow these regulations may result in his/her forfeiting the right of transportation by school bus.

When discipline problems with individual students arise, use the following guidelines:

1. If possible, the driver should resolve the problem.
2. When the driver is unable to resolve the problem, he/she should report it to the Transportation Coordinator. The Transportation Coordinator and driver, if necessary, confer with the principal. Any discipline is imposed by the principal of the school.

3. Problems which cannot be resolved by measures specified above are referred to the Superintendent.

Arlington School District has an established code of conduct for students being transported on a school bus. These rules are necessary to maintain discipline and safety. The school staff and bus drivers will insure that all students understand these safety rules. The bus drivers are responsible for maintaining discipline on the buses to comply with these rules.

The following procedures will be followed by the bus drivers and school staff in maintaining discipline on the buses:

- Bus drivers will give verbal warnings to the student for minor infractions of the bus rules.
- Repetition of minor infractions or a major incident will result in the school disciplining the student appropriately.
- The bus driver will issue a written warning to the student and parents for violation of bus behavior and safety code.
- Suspension of bus privileges will be used to insure proper bus behavior for any student upon repetition of minor incidents.
- A bus suspension may also be appropriate for any single major safety violation or insubordination to a bus driver, with or without prior warning given to the student or parent.
- Students suspended from their bus transportation privileges are still required by State law to attend school. Absences during bus suspensions are unexcused.
- The Board authorizes the Superintendent or other administrators to suspend a student from school bus riding privileges only for a period of up to one school year. The only due process required is notice to the student of an intended bus riding suspension and an opportunity to appear before the administrator considering the suspension before it happens. The administrator's decision is final.

PERMISSION TO RIDE ANOTHER BUS: A note from the parent is necessary if a child needs to ride a bus other than the one he normally rides. If you want your child to accompany another child home, arrangements must be made by both sets of parents involved and a note sent with the child to school. The bus driver must have this note before the child is permitted to enter the bus.

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