

**Board Policy  
803**

**Student Transportation and  
School Bus Safety Policy**



*Adopted 2007*

*Revised 2013*

*Revised 10/2018*

*[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]*

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide safe transportation for students and to educate students on safety issues and the responsibilities of school bus ridership.

**II. DEFINITION**

For the purpose of this policy, the term “school bus” or “bus” also includes vans or other school vehicles used to transport students to or from school and school events.

**III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR**

- A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school’s general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses, including guests or students from other schools.
- B. Consequences for school bus/bus-stop misconduct will be imposed by the school under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus-stop misconduct will be reported to the school’s Transportation Supervisor. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.
  - 1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules. The school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the school’s discipline procedures are to be followed. In most circumstances, consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the school bus driver’s responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to the school’s Transportation Supervisor.

2. Rules at the Bus Stop

- a. Get to your bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- b. Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
- c. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- d. Use appropriate language.
- e. Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
- f. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- g. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- h. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- i. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- j. No use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, or drugs.

3. Rules on the Bus

- a. Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
- b. Sit in your seat facing forward.
- c. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- d. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- e. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- f. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- g. Do not throw any object.
- h. No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, or drugs.
- i. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- j. Do not damage the school bus.

4. Boarding the Bus After School

Students must board the bus within ten (10) minutes of school dismissal.  
The drivers will not wait for late students.

5. Consequences

- a. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extracurricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school and transportation provider. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

- (1) Based on the severity of a student's conduct, serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school also may result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.
- (2) Records  
Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that causes an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property will be provided by the school to the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.
- (3) Vandalism/Bus Damage  
Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.
- (4) Notice  
School bus and bus stop rules and consequences for violations of these rules will be reviewed with students annually and copies of these rules are to be posted on each school bus.
- (5) Criminal Conduct  
In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, drug possession, or vandalism), the appropriate school personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

- b. If a student misses the bus, the school is not obligated to provide alternative transportation arrangements.

#### **IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT**

##### **A. Parent and Guardian Notification**

The school bus and bus stop rules will be provided to each family. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.

##### **B. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities for Transportation Safety**

Parents/Guardians are responsible to:

1. Become familiar with school rules, policies, regulations, and the principles of school bus safety, and thoroughly review them with their children;
2. Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions;
3. Communicate safety concerns to their school administrators;
4. Monitor bus stops, if possible;
5. Have their children to the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives;
6. Have their children properly dressed for the weather; and
7. Have a plan in case the bus is late.