

## TRANSPORTATION RULES

SCHOOL BUS RESPONSIBILITIES ARE EQUALLY SHARED BY PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND DRIVERS, COMBINED WITH CONTINUAL CLASSROOM TEACHER REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND MONITORING.

In order to develop the teamwork necessary for a safe transportation program (one which is dedicated to ALL bus passengers having a safe, pleasant trip) it is important to review the following rules, consequences, and rewards with students. Please discuss with your child/children the importance of managing their behavior on the bus while under the supervision of the bus driver. **Parents, please note that a student may not be taken off the bus or put on the bus at any place other than his/her designated bus stop with very few exceptions.** Students will be dropped off and picked up at the closest stop to their primary residence. Additionally, due to our increasing enrollment the school buses are filled to capacity this year on almost all runs. Because of the crowding, any changes in a child's plans after school that would necessitate a bus change will not be permitted. Any students making after school plans that would necessitate a bus change will have to arrange for their own transportation. The school bus is considered an extension of the school campus. All rules of conduct which apply to the school campuses also apply to the bus. Any action of a student which distracts the driver from the safe operation of the bus will because for the student to lose the privilege of riding the bus. Parents and students must realize that our bus drivers are responsible for safely delivering their precious "cargo".

**Parents should not communicate directly with drivers regarding bus schedule questions or concerns. Students' bus privileges may be suspended as a result of disruptive conduct of their parents or guardians that disrupts or interferes with the District's Transportation Department.**

Student behavior may be monitored by video recording devices within the school buses. Video may be used by district administrators in disciplinary proceedings.

### **BUS RULES --**

For everyone's safety, BUS RULES MUST BE FOLLOWED AT ALL TIMES:

- Be on time, NEVER run to or from the bus. Arrive at least 10 minutes before bus.
- Stand back from the curb. No pushing or shoving while at the bus stop or while boarding or departing. Wait for the driver's signal before crossing. ALWAYS stand/cross at least twelve (12) feet from the bus.
- Items that are NOT allowed on the bus (include, but not limited to): Food, liquids, candy, gum, glass containers, perfume, cologne, hair spray, balloons, toys, skateboards, scooters, bats, balls, **electronic devices** (including mp3 players, cell phones/Bluetooth headsets, cd/dvd players, video games), pornographic material, hobbies and crafts, refreshments for parties, live or dead insects or animals, lighters, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, weapons, replica weapons, or materials of ANY kind that could cause harm to another student or distract the driver. DRIVER MAY CONFISCATE ANY UNAUTHORIZED ITEM(S)! Hiding/attempting to conceal any item will not be tolerated.
- Cell phones or other electronic devices may not be used on the bus.
- Follow the driver's instructions AT ALL TIMES. Disrespectful behavior is NOT allowed.

- All riders MUST wear seatbelts at all times if the bus is so equipped; the law requires that seatbelts be worn.
- STAY IN YOUR SEAT! DO NOT stand or change seats while the bus is in motion. Stay in your seat, feet on the floor, face forward and sit up right. Do not change seats without permission of the driver. DRIVER IS AUTHORIZED TO ASSIGN SEATS!
- All riders MUST be silent at railroad crossings.
- NEVER crawl under a school bus.
- DO NOT yell, shout or use profanity.
- DO NOT fight. No horseplay. DO NOT annoy others.
- DO NOT eat, drink, chew gum, or litter on the bus.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- DO NOT bring tobacco, alcohol or weapons on the bus.
- DO NOT deface the bus in anyway (including writing, cutting or sticking things to seats or walls). PARENTS WILL BE CHARGED FOR DAMAGES!
- For safety reasons, crutches are allowed ONLY if the rider can board and depart bus WITHOUT use of the crutches.
- All students must show their bus pass before entering the bus.

**Students in violation of any of the bus rules will be subject to the following actions:**

1. Verbal Warning
2. Written citation with copy sent home to parent(s)/guardian(s) to sign
3. Three (3) day suspension—parent(s)/guardian(s) contacted
4. Ten (10) day suspension—parents(s)/guardian(s) contacted
5. Termination—no transportation for remainder of the school year

**Students may be given IMMEDIATE suspension or termination from the bus, depending on the severity of the student's actions.**

PLEASE NOTE:

In the event of a severe disruption or violation of the rules, the driver and the administrator may omit Consequences 1, 2, and 3 and go directly to Consequence 4, taking whatever action is necessary to ensure that the bus is operated in a safe manner. This immediate action may include:

1. Stopping the bus until the disruption ends.
2. Calling a dispatcher or law enforcement official to remove disruptive students.

3.Returning to school and placing the offending student in detention until a parent picks up the student.

4.Returning to school for administrative assistance.

5.Suspension from school.

The distraction of the bus driver endangers all student riders and the driver. Since safe transportation is a commitment to be shared equally by the home and school, parents are urged to continually assist the school by reviewing good bus behavior with their child/children. School districts are not required to provide bus transportation. Riding a school bus in Jefferson School District is a privilege, not a right.

In 2002 Jefferson School District began charging families a fee for student transportation. Bus passes must be purchased prior to the use of the transportation system. To obtain a bus pass for your child, please complete a Bus Pass Application that is included in the beginning of the year packet or is available in each school office. Details of current rates and payments options are available at the [jeffersonschooldistrict.com](http://jeffersonschooldistrict.com) website under the Transportation link.

#### KINDERGARTEN BUS PROCEDURES

We ask that the parent be at the bus stop before the bus arrives to receive the child. The times may vary due to trains, weather, etc. If someone other than yourself will be at the stop to receive your child, the office must have a note signed by you as early as possible to give us permission to leave your child with that person. **If no one is at your child's bus stop to receive them, they will be returned to the school at the end of the kindergarten route and will be waiting for you to pick them up at school. If this happens, the child will be given a bus citation and the above citation rules will apply. The student may lose their bus riding privilege!**

#### BUS LOADING/STUDENT PICK UP PROCEDURES

ALL students will be escorted or supervised by teachers while walking to the bus loading and pick up area at the end of the school day. Teachers will divide their classes accordingly so students can be dropped off quickly to the appropriate holding area. Parents are reminded that students must get on and off at their designated stops only.