

# **BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**2023-24**

## **School Bus Rules**

In order to maintain a safe and orderly atmosphere on all Benton Public School buses the following rules have been established and must be followed to retain bus riding privileges.

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Remain properly seated at all times.
3. Keep your hands, feet, all body parts, and objects to yourself.
4. Do not use profanity, rude language, rude gestures, or tease/bully anyone on the bus.
5. Do not litter, write on, or damage (\$50 fine for seat damage) the bus in any way.
6. All school handbook rules are to be followed.

## **Consequences for Violations of Bus Rules**

Students who violate bus rules will be subject, but not limited to, the following consequences.

1. First bus discipline report - written warning/ 3 day bus suspension
  2. Second bus discipline report- five-day bus suspension
  3. Third bus discipline report- ten-day bus suspension
  4. Fourth bus discipline report- bus privileges denied for the remainder of the school year.
  5. Severe Clause: A student who distracts a bus driver from his/her responsibility of safely driving the bus or who engages in conduct endangering other students such as but not limited to fighting, smoking/vaping, or disrespect toward the bus driver will receive an immediate suspension from riding if a severe infraction occurs. Suspension time for a severe infraction could result in the denial of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the year.
- A suspension from one Benton bus is a suspension from all buses operated by the Benton Public School District.

## **Riding the Bus**

- 1. Ride only the bus to which you are assigned. The Benton Public Schools do not permit visitors on our buses.**
- 2. Follow the directions of the driver. Students are under the direct supervision of the driver while on the bus.**
- 3. Do not distract the driver's attention or disturb other riders on the bus.**
- 4. Remain seated at all times. Follow the directions of the driver as to when it is appropriate to stand on the bus.**
- 5. Students must not block the aisle with any books, musical instruments, legs, or feet.**
- 6. Musical instruments are permitted if they are small enough to be held in the students' lap without taking another seat.**

## **Emergency Procedures**

**In an emergency, students should remain calm and quiet and listen for instructions from the bus driver. If the driver is unable to conduct emergency measures, the students should follow the procedures below in leaving the bus:**

- If the exit is through the front door, students sitting in the front seat to the left of the aisle will move out first, followed by those in the right front seat and proceeding in this alternating manner until all seats are emptied. If the exit is through the rear emergency door, those students sitting next to the aisle will leave first, beginning with those students in the rear of the bus.**
- If a rapid exit is necessary and it is possible to exit from both doors, students in the rear half of the bus should move out the back door, and those in the front half should move out the front door. In the event of an accident resulting in injury, persons injured should, if possible, be moved only under competent medical supervision.**
- If the bus should be overturned, students should evacuate through windows or through either door. Upon leaving the bus in an emergency, students are to move immediately off the roadway to a safe distance from traffic. They should not cross the road unless instructed by the driver.**
- In the event of a tornado or other natural disaster, students should follow the instruction of the bus driver regarding emergency procedures.**

# **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

## **Meeting the Bus**

- 1. Arrive at your scheduled stop at least 10 minutes before the scheduled arrival time.**
- 2. Stay at least 10 feet away from all streets.**
- 3. Before crossing a street or road to get on the bus, wait until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver gives you directions.**
- 4. Respect the property rights of others while waiting for the bus. Do not litter or damage property.**
- 5. Stand back at least ten feet from the bus stop and do not approach the bus until it has come to a complete stop and the door is opened.**
- 6. If you miss the bus, do not try to ride another bus to school.**

## **Entering and leaving the Bus**

- 1. Students will board and depart the bus only at their assigned stops.**
- 2. Enter and leave the bus quickly and in an orderly manner. Do not enter or leave the school bus by the back door unless in an emergency, as directed by the driver.**
- 3. If you must cross the street after leaving the bus in the afternoon, go to the point on the shoulder of the street ten feet in front of the bus and wait until the driver has signaled you to cross.**
- 4. If you drop any object (book, paper, pencil) while leaving the bus, do not attempt to retrieve the object until the bus has left and the streets are clear of other vehicles.**

## **Stop for Flashing Lights!**

- 1. Motorists are reminded that it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus whenever its red lights are flashing, as students are present.**
- 2. Drivers face fines and other penalties if found to be passing a school bus when the flashing lights are on or the stop sign is extended.**

## **Parents Expectations**

Parents are an important part of their child's success at school. A positive experience on the school bus can enhance a child's potential. Parents are expected to assist through completing the following each school day:

- Instruct their child to be 5-10 minutes, no earlier, to the bus stop. Review all transportation expectations and conduct or model those expectations with their child so that they know what each expectation looks like.
- Determine procedure for child between home and the bus stop. Encourage appropriate dress for protection against inclement weather.
- Be courteous to the school bus driver. They are the professionals and have extended a lot of time, effort and personal finances to be entrusted as a school bus driver.
- Establish a schedule with neighbors to monitor student safety. Monitor the bus stop area for damage and cleanliness.
- Report to police any unusual vehicles near a bus stop or suspicious individuals who are not routinely at the bus stop. Instruct your child to never accept a ride with a motorist.
- Contact the school or Transportation Department if your child is late or cannot be located following the school bus arrival.
- ***Please provide the bus driver with written parental and principal permission, one day prior to visiting student is to ride home with your child.***
- Protocol for addressing concerns with the bus driver or other transportation concerns are as follows:
  - 1) Call the Director of Transportation at **501-776-5706**.
  - 2) Director of Transportation will discuss the issue with the proper personnel.
  - 3) Principal of student's school will be contacted if needed.
  - 4) Superintendent of Benton Schools will be contacted if needed.