

POLICY 2216

Transportation - Conduct on Buses

- A. Student conduct while being transported on a school bus to-and-from activities sponsored by a school(s), shall be the same as required while in attendance at school(s); all district policies for student behavior are applicable. Drivers are school officials and may take such measures as seem advisable to assure proper conduct including temporary suspension and permanent expulsion (as approved by the principal up to the length of the school year) from bus privileges. It is understood that all conduct expected of students applies to adults on the bus.
- B. Students should be on time both morning and afternoon. Students should be at their assigned bus stop 3-5 minutes before the scheduled bus pick-up time. The bus cannot wait for students who are tardy.
- C. Eligible students will load or unload from the bus at the stop and school to which he/she is attending unless a parent is present.
- D. Prior approval by a school administrator and the bus driver is required before students are allowed to ride buses which they are not normally assigned or disembark at a point other than their normal stop.
- E. For safety reasons students are never to stand in roadways while waiting for the bus. When loading or unloading from the bus, or when having to cross the roadway, the student(s) must cross in front of the bus. Students shall never cross behind the bus. All students crossing a roadway to load or unload from a bus must do so with the aid of the flashing red signals and wait for the driver to signal them across.
- F. Any objects brought onto the bus must be safely secured or conveniently carried by the student without causing discomfort or unreasonable annoyance to other passengers. Objects are not to block aisles, doors, steps or emergency exits. Objects that may pose a hazard or risk to the passengers or driver may be barred from coming onto the bus. Nothing should extend above the seat back. No object or item shall be thrown from the bus.
- G. There shall be no shouting, whistling, pushing, scuffling, inappropriate conduct, or unnecessary conversation with the driver. The use of alcohol, tobacco in any form, or any product containing nicotine, controlled substances (reference Board [Policy 5290 Student Discipline – Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco](#)), obscene or profane language is also

prohibited. Students may not take firearms, blowguns, knives, water pistols, flippers, lighters or any flammable material, or any other item that through its use may damage the bus, inflict injury on another person, or cause unnecessary disturbance. No student shall willfully attack or otherwise molest another student on the bus; harassment and/or bullying will not be tolerated.

- H. Students must be seated at all times while the bus is in motion. Passengers may not arise from their seats to exit before the bus is stopped to load or unload. Passengers must not extend their arms, heads, or other parts of the body out of the windows of the bus. No food or drink may be consumed on the bus without prior permission from the bus driver.
- I. Students should not use the rear emergency door, except for emergencies.
- J. By law, any willful or negligent damage to the bus by any student will be the responsibility of that student or the student's parents to compensate for damages. Students shall keep the bus clean and are responsible for cleaning up any unnecessary litter.
- K. The opportunity to utilize school/district provided transportation is a privilege extended to our students. Students who refuse to promptly obey the directions of the driver or refuse to obey the bus rules and regulations may forfeit their privileges to ride the bus. A student who is denied transportation does have the right to basic due process.
- K. The radio and audible music on the bus are privileges controlled by the driver. When either is allowed it must not contain profane or vulgar language and/or lyrics or be played at volumes distracting to the driver or other students.
- L. Bus drivers are under the obligation to follow all school board, State, and Federal policies, procedures, and regulations.