

## Introduction

Fairfield Community School District has student behavior guidelines which apply to all students transported on school district buses for any purpose. Every student has the right to a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school or on any type of activity trip. With safety being the district and bus driver's primary concern, students must recognize the importance of proper personal conduct and how this contributes to ensuring a safe ride for all individuals on the school bus.

Situations may arise in which student behavior is in conflict with established rules and may jeopardize the safety of others on the bus. The purpose of this policy is to provide predetermined disciplinary consequences for unacceptable behaviors while riding the bus or waiting at a designated school bus stop when the bus is at or near the stop. If a student is involved in a serious or repeated behavior, school administrators and/or the transportation director will have the option to suspend the bus riding privileges. Suspension from riding the school bus is not necessarily a suspension from school.

A parent/guardian of a student suspended from riding the school bus is responsible for ensuring safe transportation to and from school for the student during the suspended riding time.

Students with special needs who lose bus riding privileges due to disciplinary action will have the disability and the individual education plan reviewed as a part of the final disciplinary decision.

The district administration and/or the transportation director will review each discipline issue as reported, which may or may not be listed in the three classes of unacceptable behavior. Each issue will be treated uniquely with student behavior and incident factors fully investigated. Disciplinary action will be assigned with those factors in mind.

## Unacceptable Behaviors

### Class I

- Extending head, arms or legs out of windows
- Distracting the bus driver
- Failure to follow the bus driver's instructions
- Throwing/shooting objects on the bus
- Failure to follow safe crossing procedures
- Standing while the bus is in motion
- Jumping over or crawling under seats
- Riding on a bus other than assigned bus
- Boarding/exiting a bus at a location other than the assigned stop
- Shouting, yelling, screaming or excessive noise
- Tripping another student
- Blocking the bus aisle
- Spitting
- Horseplay
- Possession of squirt guns, laser pointer, water balloons, liquid containers of any type, shaving cream, eggs, or dispensing perfume or aftershave
- Eating, drinking or chewing gum on the bus
- Failure to wear seat belt
- Failure to carry/use bus scan card

### Class II

- Theft or robbery
- Willful damage to property of another individual
- Tampering with emergency equipment
- Chasing or running alongside a moving bus
- Throwing or shooting an object at the driver or out of the bus window
- Bringing dangerous objects onto the bus (dangerous by use, not by design)
- Pushing/shoving another student in the bus loading zone, bus danger zone or near a moving bus
- False identification or refusal to provide correct identification information to the driver
- Possession of obscene/pornographic materials
- Use of obscene or profane languages or gestures
- Possession of a lighter or matches
- Harassment in any form (including bullying)
- Interfering with or disrespectful towards the bus driver, safety supervisor or administrator
- Physical aggression or the threat of physical aggression against another person
- Fighting

### Class III

- Unacceptable sexual conduct (including sexual harassment)
- Possession of a knife, weapon or ammunition
- Detonation of any fireworks-like device on the bus or bus stop
- Ignition of any type of fire, including matches and lighters
- Possession of a flammable liquid on the bus
- Assault or threat to the bus driver or any other person
- Vandalism of the school bus  
*An individual responsible for vandalizing a bus will be responsible for cost of replacement of damaged goods.*
- Attempt to ride on the outside of the school bus
- Running out in front of a moving bus
- Opening any emergency exit, or attempting to exit from a moving bus
- Possession or use of alcohol
- Possession or use of tobacco and/or vaping products
- Possession or use of drug or drug related materials

## Consequences for Unacceptable Behavior

### Class 1

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense | Parental contact by bus driver, transportation director or building administrator - Discipline will be handled at attendance center. |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense | 1-3-day suspension from riding the bus   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense | 3-5-day suspension from riding the bus   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense | 5-15-day suspension from riding the bus  |

### Class II

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|--------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense- | Discipline at building and/or 1-3-day suspension from riding the bus             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense- | 3-5-day suspension from riding the bus   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense- | 5-10-day suspension from riding the bus  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense- | Suspension from riding the bus for the remainder of the year, or 60 days minimum |

### Class III

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|--------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense- | 5 - 30-day suspension from riding the bus  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense- | Suspension from riding the bus for the remainder of the school year and/or 60 days minimum. 60 days minimum. This may be carried into the subsequent school year if less than 60 days remain in the current academic year. |

**Consequences-Continued**

Parental contact will be made for each school bus incident by written notification (bus conduct report) and or by conference, dependent upon the type and seriousness of the incident. The conference may be held with student, parent/guardian and district representative after the occurrence and possibly before riding privileges are reinstated following a bus suspension.

**NOTE:**

**A BUS SUSPENSION IS FOR ANY BUS AND FOR ALL PURPOSES**

**Bus Video Monitoring**

To assist school bus drivers and administration in achieving the utmost safety on the school bus, the district has the capability to utilize audio/video monitoring systems. The system can be used to monitor student behavior and bus safety issues.

**School Bus Danger Zone**

Students who must cross a roadway to board the school bus must wait for the signal from the bus driver and must walk 10 feet out in front of the bumper, or clear the crossing control arm of the school bus. This places the student outside the danger zone surrounding the bus. Students should always remain where the school bus driver can see them

**Bus Rules**

**Don't Lose Your Riding Privileges  
Follow These Rules**

1. Observe the same conduct as in the classroom.
2. Be courteous, use no profane language.
3. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
4. Keep the bus clean.
5. Cooperate with the driver.
6. Do not smoke.
7. Stay in your seat and remain seated.
8. Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus.
9. Bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
10. Skateboards are not allowed on the school bus.
11. Animals and large objects should not be brought onto the bus.
12. Always walk when boarding the school bus.
13. Respect others and their property.
14. Students should be quiet when the bus approaches and crosses railroad tracks.
15. Avoid making loud noises and talk at a normal level.
16. Band instruments can be transported on the school bus.
17. Use your bus scan card. These are required in order to ride the bus.

**Bus Stop Rules**

1. Arrive at the stop location approximately five minutes before the designated pickup time.
2. Stay at the stop location once there.
3. Do not go into the street or traffic area.
4. Do not litter.
5. Respect others and property.
6. Use appropriate language.
7. Stay clear of the bus until it comes to a complete stop, and directions from the driver have been given to board.

**Rules Posted in the Bus**

1. Follow the Driver's directions.
2. Remain seated.
3. Use an inside voice, talk normal.
4. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
5. Respect yourself and others.
6. No food or drinks on the bus.

**Fairfield Community  
School District**

**Bus Conduct  
And Discipline**

**Rules, Regulations and  
Student Responsibilities**

**Fairfield Community School  
Transportation Department  
Telephone 641.472.5252**