

## Transportation

(This policy applies to all schools in the district.)

Students may be transported to other schools in our district or to ASU Mid-South without signed consent forms from the parent/guardian. The school will send notification of the trip. The notification may be sent in writing or with a phone call, which may occur via the school messenger system.

Students who live more than 2 miles from the school they attend may be transported by bus to school. **RIDING THE BUS IS A PRIVILEGE!** Students may lose this privilege for misconduct. It becomes the parents' responsibility to transport students who have been suspended from the bus. When a student is suspended from a bus, the student has lost riding privileges from all district school buses. Remember that it is a privilege to ride the school bus. In general, the time students spend on the school bus is an extension of the school day and all school rules and regulations which pertain to student conduct are applicable to student conduct on the bus. The following rules are specific guidelines for appropriate behavior on the bus.

These rules concerning riding the bus are posted on all district school buses.

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. Do not be destructive.
8. Stay in your seat.
9. Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
10. The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.

**The bus driver is at all times in charge of his/her bus.**

**The bus driver is obligated to report any misconduct to the building principal and/or assistant principal.**

Due to traffic, construction, weather, mechanical breakdowns, and trains, precise bus stop times are not possible. Buses should arrive at bus stops at a given time each day give or take five minutes either way. Early in the school year, bus stop times can vary until the route is established by knowing which students will ride the bus.

**Students are to be at the bus stop when the bus arrives.** The only exception would be in situations of inclement weather. Inclement weather is defined as temperatures at freezing (32 degrees of below) or rain (not sprinkles). In situations of inclement weather, the bus will stop at all bus stops and look to see if any student is approaching the bus. If students are not approaching the bus, the bus will continue to the next bus stop. When loading a bus, there should be a single file line and no crowding. Students should stand back at least ten feet from the bus until the loading door is opened. Students should load in an orderly and quick manner.

**Students who habitually delay the bus** by not being at the bus stop when the bus arrives or shows up late at the bus stop and the bus must wait on the student after loading other students will be reported to their school. This behavior delays the bus and causes the bus to be late at other stops and getting to school.

**Students are not permitted to have multiple bus stops.** A student is allowed one bus stop in the morning and one bus stop in the afternoon. These sites may only be changed in cases of **extreme** emergency or if a family moves to a new address. Permanent changes may be made by calling the school office or sending a note to the student's teacher. In the case of a true emergency, a bus pass must be issued by the student's school to ride another bus. Notes handed to bus drivers are not acceptable.

Parents must provide transportation for **students going home with someone else or spending the night with someone else.** This policy is in place to try to control loads on buses as to not create an overload.

**Cell phone use is prohibited on the bus.** All cell phones should be in the student's pocket or in their backpacks.

**Dress Code for students riding school buses** is the same as the dress code for the student's school.

**All students are to identify themselves when requested by the bus driver.** Failure to respond to the driver's request or giving the driver a fictitious name can result in a bus suspension.

**Students are not to bring objects of objectionable or injurious nature upon the bus.** Examples: Animals or insects dead or alive. Balloons or flowers. Skateboards, roller blades, balls, or bats. (Bus transportation for school projects will need to be approved by the school through the transportation office.)

**Students are not allowed to go to their mail boxes** in the afternoons as soon as they get off the bus. They will need to step away from the bus a minimum of fifteen feet and allow the bus to leave the area before going to the mailbox. This is a safety requirement for all students riding the school bus.

**Parents having a problem with a bus driver should not confront the driver at the bus stop.**

It is unlawful in the state of Arkansas for any person or persons to threaten, curse, or use abusive language to a school bus driver in the presence of students (Act 247 of 2005). If you have a problem with the bus, driver, student conduct, scheduling, etc., please contact the principal of the school your child attends or the bus shop at 870-739-5190.

**Students are not permitted to get on or off the bus except at the regular stop.**

**Students are only allowed to ride the bus to which they are assigned.**

**Misconduct on the bus will be reported to the principal and/or assistant principal by the bus driver.** Such misconduct may result in the suspension of bus riding privileges for a specified period of time.

**Bus misconduct consequences for students:**

- **First report** of misconduct: Warning
- **Second report** of misconduct: Probation
- **Third report** of misconduct: Three (3) school day bus suspensions
- **Fourth report** of misconduct: Five (5) school day bus suspensions
- **Fifth report** of misconduct: Ten (10) school day bus suspensions
- **Sixth report** of misconduct: Suspension from bus for the remainder of the semester or Forty-five (45) school days whichever is greater. This suspension can carry over into the next school year.
- **Seventh report** of misconduct: Suspension from bus for the remainder of the school year or Ninety (90) school days whichever is greater. This suspension can carry over into the next school year.

**Severe Clause**

Serious misbehavior on the school bus may result in an immediate bus suspension and may result in a suspension from school.

**Bus Damage Liability**

Students and parents will be held accountable for any damages to the school bus responsible by the student. The student will receive a bus suspension under the severe clause and will not regain riding privileges until restitution is made to the school for the damage.

Students attending the Marion School District through School Choice are not eligible for school bus transportation.

For additional information contact: Marion School District, 200 Manor Street, Marion, AR 72364, Attn: Kenny Phillips at 870-739-5190.