

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Students are required to conduct themselves on school buses in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior.

The school principal may suspend or revoke the riding privileges of students and/or take other disciplinary actions for students who are disciplinary problems on the bus. Parents (or guardians) of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses violates the Student Code of Conduct or otherwise endangers the health, safety and welfare of other riders shall be notified that their child/children face the loss of school bus riding privileges and/or other disciplinary actions.

If a student's riding privileges are suspended or revoked, the student's parents are responsible for seeing that the student gets to and from school safely.

The bus driver is responsible for maintaining the orderly behavior of students on school buses and shall report misconduct to the student's principal and provide a copy of the report to the transportation office.

Amended: May 22, 2017

Amended: May 12, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-176, 22.1-293.

Cross Refs.:	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
	EEA	Student Transportation Services
	JFC	Student Conduct
	JFCD	Weapons in School
	JGD/JGE	Student Suspension/Expulsion
	JGDA	Disciplining Students with Disabilities
	GBEC/JFCH/KGC	Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products

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Transportation of Students

The Board of Education may furnish transportation to resident students enrolled in the schools of the division who satisfy the following requirements:

1. Reside within the attendance area of the school(s) served;
2. Reside beyond approved walking distances;
3. Are present at authorized points for student pick-up at the designated time;
and
4. Comply with division standards and regulations in their conduct and behavior.

Student Conduct on School Buses

In the interest of the safety and welfare of school bus passengers, the Board of Education desires the Superintendent of schools and his designees to establish and enforce strict school bus discipline and safety regulations. Students who do not conform to all regulations and directives concerning discipline, safety and conduct or whose behavior could be detrimental to the safety or welfare of others or the safe operation of the bus may have their bus riding privileges suspended or revoked in accordance with this policy.

Procedural Guidelines

The following general procedural guidelines should be followed when administering this policy:

1. Initially bus drivers should try to resolve the discipline problem or violation of rules directly with the student(s) involved and/or their parents.
2. For problems not resolved by step 1 or in cases of more serious discipline or safety problems, a discipline referral may be made to the school principal or designee ("administrator"). In such cases, unless more severe sanctions appear warranted, the administrator will give the student a formal warning, notify the parents and provide the parents with a copy of the discipline referral.
3. If a problem occurs which results in a second discipline referral or, in the case of an initial discipline referral involving a serious discipline or safety problem, the following procedure shall apply:
 - a. The administrator will advise the student orally or in writing of the charges.

- b. If the student denies the charges, the administrator will explain the evidence against the student and give the student an opportunity to present the student's side of the incident.
- c. If, on the basis of this discussion, the administrator believes the student to be guilty of the misconduct charged, the administrator may suspend the student's bus riding privileges.
- d. The administrator shall immediately notify the parents of the suspension of bus riding privileges, the grounds for such suspension, the duration of such suspension and the time and place for the parents to meet with the administrator to review the suspension. Such meeting shall be held prior to reinstatement of the student's bus riding privileges.

This policy and applicable regulations shall not be limited in their application to bus riding privileges alone, but shall also extend to all division provided or supervised transportation. Disorderly conduct by students at bus stops shall be reported and acted upon in the same manner as misconduct on buses.

Nothing contained in this policy shall preclude the imposition of other disciplinary measures as appropriate, including suspension or expulsion from school, in accordance with other division policies and procedures.

Cross Refs.: JFC, Student Conduct
JGD/JGE, Student Suspension/Expulsion