

The Fayette County School Corporation is committed to providing a safe and efficient student transportation system. This is possible with the teamwork of dedicated drivers who pledge to be courteous and caring to the students that they transport, and with parents and students being considerate and cooperative with the bus drivers and staff.

Because the behavior of school bus passengers can directly affect their safety and the safety of others, the following regulations apply at all times when students are riding a school bus, including daily routes, field trips and other special trips. School personnel, parents or guardians, and students must know and follow these regulations. ***It is a privilege, not a right, to have transportation to and from school.*** This information will help assure a safe ride for all students transported.

In accordance with the (revised) Indiana Code 20-27-10-2, "When school children are being transported on a school bus, they are under the supervision, direction and control of the school bus driver and are subject to disciplinary measures by the bus driver and the governing body of the school corporation." Bus drivers shall keep order, maintain discipline among students, and see that all students are treated in a civil manner, and that no student is imposed upon or mistreated, using every precaution for the safety of the students under their charge. Specific rules are to be followed:

1. Students are to use only the designated school bus stop and the assigned school bus. Any changes require approval of the Director of Transportation.
2. Students are to arrive at the bus stop at least five (5), but no more than ten (10) minutes ***before*** the bus is due. ***A bus will not be sent back to a stop if a student was not outside, visible, and ready to board.*** Whenever possible, students shall walk to and from the school bus in groups. Students are to behave in an orderly manner at the bus stop.
3. **Parents** are responsible for the following:
  - a. The safety of their child while going to or from the bus stop and while waiting for the school bus.
  - b. Their child being at the stop at least five (5) minutes prior to scheduled pick-up time.
  - c. Damage by their child to school buses, personal property, or public property.
4. As the bus arrives, students are to form a line and stand a last ten (10) feet back from the curb. Students are not to move toward the bus until it has come to a complete stop and the door is open. Students must find a seat quickly, occupy the seat assigned to them by the bus driver, and remain seated at all times, facing forward. ***Bus drivers may assign seats at any time. Students must keep their arms and heads in the bus at all times***

5. Students will be permitted to carry material that can be held on their lap and needed for their academic needs. The following items will not be permitted on the school bus: large items that have sharp points or edges; band instruments too large to be held on a lap; glass items – including flower vases; balloons; live animals; skates and skateboards; and **dangerous** items (guns, knives [Indiana PL72-2006], fireworks, or any other flammables). No students will be denied a place to safely sit due to another student's belonging. If there is a question on the transportation of a particular item, the Director of Transportation should be contacted. At no time will any object be allowed to obstruct the aisle at the front or rear emergency door
6. While riding the bus, shoes must be worn at all time – no cleats.
7. While riding the bus, students may talk quietly. Students are not to shout, yell, use profane language or gestures, or behave in a boisterous manner. The use of cell phones is not permitted while on board the bus. Fighting, pushing, or shoving will not be tolerated. *Bullying by a student or group of students against another student or staff member with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimate, or harm the other student through overt, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal, written, telephonic (including text messaging), electronic, or computer (email, webpage, blog, etc.) communications transmitted, and/or physical acts committed, or any other similar behavior is prohibited. Students engaging in such conduct may be disciplined in accordance with IC 20-33-0.* The bus driver cannot be distracted while the bus is in motion. Students are not to engage in unnecessary conversation with the bus driver
8. No eating, drinking, or chewing gum.
9. Spitting or throwing anything inside or out of the school bus will not be tolerated.
10. When exiting the bus, students are to remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop. Students should follow the bus driver's instruction and hand signals. If students cross the roadway, they should cross at least ten (10) feet in front of the bus. Students must always be alert for traffic when leaving the bus and **NEVER CROSS BEHIND THE BUS.**
11. Students shall be aware of the "Danger Zones" surrounding the school bus. These zones include ten (10) feet around the school bus with the most dangerous zones being directly in front of the bus and by the passenger side rear tires.
12. For the safety of everyone aboard, the bus driver must devote full attention to the road. The safety of the whole group depends upon the proper, safe conduct of each individual student of any age.

Students who violate the bus regulations, the Fayette County School Corporation Student Code of Conduct, or their classroom and building rules will be subject to consequences from their bus driver, their building principal, and the Director of Transportation. These consequences include a bus suspension for a period of one (1) day to the remainder of the school year. Every effort will be made to ensure that the punishment for the rule violation is consistent with the misbehavior of the students. The progressive disciplinary plan includes specific violations/consequences but does not limit the disciplinary consequences that may be imposed by the administrators.

*All students are subject to the rules and guidelines specified in the Fayette County School Corporation Students Code of Conduct.*