

## **SCHOOL BUS CONDUCT**

***Bus transportation is provided as a privilege to students.*** The primary purpose of school transportation is to transport students safely. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. **STUDENT SAFETY IS FIRST AND FOREMOST.**

1. Students are under the authority of the school principal. The driver of the bus is responsible to the principal for the students' behavior. These rules, in conjunction with all rules in the Code of Conduct, should be followed by all students on school buses.
  - a. Surveillance cameras will be used at all times on buses to ensure safety.
  - b. A student is never to get off the bus at any time unless given permission by the bus driver.
  - c. Obey all instructions given by the driver. Show respect.
  - d. Keep aisles of the bus unobstructed at all times.
  - e. Put litter in the trash can/box.
  - f. Remain in assigned seats while the bus is in motion.
  - g. Keep all objects inside the bus.
  - h. Keep all body parts inside the bus at all times.
  - i. The dress code must be followed.

## **INAPPROPRIATE BUS BEHAVIOR**

- a. Balloons are not allowed on the bus.
  - b. Aerosol products are not allowed on the bus.
  - c. Glass containers or products are not allowed on the bus
  - d. Use of tobacco, striking matches, shooting fireworks, or possession of weapons is prohibited.
  - e. Defacing or damaging a bus in any manner is prohibited.
  - f. Vulgar talk, loud noise, and shouting are prohibited.
  - g. Eating or drinking anything on the bus is prohibited.
  - h. Fighting, tripping, or pushing is prohibited
  - i. Any other action not along the lines of good conduct is prohibited
2. Parents or guardians of students are responsible for damage students do to any bus. A charge of \$100.00 is made for a cut or vandalized bus seat.
3. Buses operate on a definite schedule. **The student should be at the designated pick-up 5 minutes prior to the designated time.**
4. When it is necessary for a student to cross the road to get to the designated pick-up point, extreme caution should be used in crossing. If the student must cross the road when leaving the bus, cross in front of the bus after looking both ways.
5. The first time no one is available to receive the student, the parent/guardian or other persons listed in the student's school record will be contacted to pick up the student at the Board Office. Subsequent incidences may result in additional consequences including calls to the School Resource Officer and DHR and suspension of transportation privileges. This applies to students 10 years and under. When it is necessary for the bus driver to drive the student back to any of the mentioned places, there will be a charge of \$25.00 to the parent.

If an offense is serious enough to justify immediate action, the driver of the bus has the authority to refuse admittance. The driver will immediately notify the principal or proper authority if admittance is denied. The principal will decide if and when the student will again be permitted public school transportation.

All parents/guardians will determine in writing the permanent morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off for their child(ren). A form will be given to each child for parent to complete.

Each parent/guardian may make **ONE** permanent change per semester in person with the student's administrator.

**NO TEMPORARY CHANGES.** Extenuating circumstances must be determined by the administration and will only be done in extreme situations.

ALL transportation decision **MUST** be indicated on the school provided form.

**Additionally, change from being a bus rider to a car rider must be made by 1:30 the day of the change. This is to prepare teachers and students of the transportation adjustment. This is also a safety precaution for your child.**

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND MINIMUM RESTITUTION FOR BUS MISCONDUCT**

The foremost concern of the Coosa County Board of Education in the area of student transportation is SAFETY. In an effort to provide the safest possible transportation environment, proper student behavior will be stressed. The driver of the bus shall monitor student conduct on his/her bus. Any misconduct by a student will be considered a hazard to the safe operation of the bus and the following actions will be taken:

- The driver will attempt to correct the behavior by student conference, parent notification and/or referral to the school principal.
- The bus driver will complete and turn in to the school principal a School Bus Discipline Report to document cases of student misconduct.

1st Minor Referral – The principal will at least document a conference with the student and a call to the parent. The bus

driver may be required by the principal to attend this conference.

After the 1<sup>st</sup> Referral – The principal will conduct a conference or conference call with the parent. The driver and student may attend upon Principal's discretion.

3rd Referral – The principal will conduct a due process hearing. If restitution is appropriate, then a minimum 1 to 3 day suspension from the bus will be administered. **At any time administration can suspend a student from the bus for any amount of time.** If a student is suspended from the bus, the parent is responsible for bringing the child to school or the absence will be unexcused.

The principal may conduct a due process hearing after any referral if he/she deems necessary. Video monitors will be used to control and document school bus behavior. A student's behavior may be recorded by video camera and the documentation used in disciplinary hearings by school officials. The school bus video is designed to protect and support the driver, as well as provide documentation of unprofessional driver conduct.

Actions determined to be unsafe for the students and/or driver may constitute more severe restitutions, no matter the number of bus referral.