

Student Conduct on Buses

The privilege of riding a school bus is contingent upon a student's good behavior and observance of the student code of conduct and established rules for student conduct both at bus stops and on board buses.

The driver of a school bus shall be responsible for the safety of the students on his/her bus, both during the ride and while students are entering or leaving the vehicle. The bus driver shall notify the Director of Transportation, the School Principal, and the parents/guardians of any student who persists in violating the established rules of conduct. The driver is in charge and students should obey the driver's instructions promptly and respectfully.

Sponsors have the primary responsibility to ensure students behave properly and observe the rules of conduct on activity trips. The bus driver will take appropriate action to assist the sponsor in enforcing the rules to ensure the safe operation of bus.

After due warning has been given to the student and/or their parents/guardians, the student may be suspended from the bus immediately for conduct detrimental to the safe operation of the bus. The student may be suspended from the bus immediately for conduct detrimental to the safe operation of the bus. The student also may be denied admission to school, suspended or expelled, in accordance with established policies including discipline of habitually disruptive students for flagrant violation of school bus rider conduct regulations or conduct detrimental to the safe operation of the bus.

If an offense is minor in nature and if the student responds appropriately to behavior management, then the bus driver will give a verbal warning to the student for the first offense. If the student repeats the misconduct or commits another offense then the bus driver will complete a Bus Conduct Report, contact the parent/guardian, and take the appropriate disciplinary action. The bus driver will determine whether an offense is minor or major.

Misconduct considered major will be handled by the Director of Transportation or designee and/or School Principal. Parents will be notified of repeated or serious conduct problems and may be present during the behavior management process. The Director of Transportation will coordinate the meeting with all concerned parties and facilitate the meeting.

Bus Conduct Rules

1. Students should be at their designated bus stop 5 minutes prior to their scheduled pick up.
2. Stay off the roadway at all times while waiting for the bus.
3. Wait for the driver's signal before crossing the road if necessary. Proceed straight across the road no less than 10 feet or more than 15 feet in front of the bus.
4. Wait until the bus stops and the door is opened before attempting to board.
5. No pushing, shoving, or other behavior that endangers others getting on or off the bus.
6. No standing, changing seats, or moving about while the bus is in motion.

7. Keep head, arms, and legs inside the bus and adjust windows only when instructed to do so by the driver. Do not throw things out of the bus.
8. Sit in the seat facing forward with the aisle kept clear at all times. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself and don't be a nuisance to others.
9. Unacceptable language, rude gestures, or loud noises and talking are not permitted. Complete silence is required at all railroad crossings. Be courteous and respectful.
10. The use of or possession of any tobacco, alcohol, or drugs is not permitted.
11. Large objects, band instruments, or class projects (except glass, heavy metal items, skis, etc.) that can safely be held on a student's lap and don't interfere with other passengers can be transported. On a case-by-case basis exceptions can be made if the request has been pre-approved by the driver.
12. Animals, weapons, or replicas of weapons, matches or other dangerous items are not permitted.
13. Balls must be in some type of sports bag.
14. Eating or drinking is not allowed (choking may occur).
15. Destruction/vandalism of property is not permitted.
16. Student radios, tape decks, CD players, etc. are not to be played aloud on the bus.
17. Be alert for a danger signal (horn honking, verbal command, etc.) from the driver when leaving the bus or crossing a road. If you hear a signal immediately stop and check with the driver for instructions.
18. Only board or exit the bus at your assigned stop. Students **must** have a written request from their parent/guardian, approved by the Principal, and presented to the driver in order to get on or off at another stop.
19. Littering is not permitted.
20. Harassment and fighting is not permitted.
21. Theft or damage of another person's property is not permitted.
22. Use of aerosol products (hair spray, etc.) is not permitted.
23. Behavior or conduct not listed above, which in the opinion of the driver is either unsafe or detrimental to the well being of other passengers, is not permitted.

The bus driver will take appropriate disciplinary action for minor problems. This could include the following:

- Verbal warning.
- Assign student to a seat.
- Cleaning out the bus.
- Doing a written assignment.
- Up to 2 days bus suspension.

For anything other than a verbal warning the bus driver will complete a Bus Conduct Report and send it home with the student.

Repeated minor offenses (3 in a 2 month period) and major offenses will be dealt with by the Director of Transportation and/or the School Principal. Discipline could result in suspension of the student from riding all ECSD buses for the remainder of the school year.

Before the student can ride the bus again, a parent/guardian **must** sign the Bus Conduct Report, and a copy given to the driver by the student. If the report is not signed and there is no parent/guardian at home the student will be transported to school but the parent/guardian will have to pick the student up at school at the end of the day (Transportation will contact the parent/guardian).

Except in unusual circumstances, if we transport a student to school we will transport the student home, even if they are suspended from the bus that day. If a student does something so bad they need to be taken off the bus immediately, they will be taken back to the school, turned over to the police, or returned home (if a parent or guardian is there).

Each student will begin with a clean record at the beginning of each school year, however, any suspensions from the previous school year not fully carried out will be completed at the beginning of the next school year.

Video Cameras on School Buses

Audiovisual recording devices are installed and used on District buses for the purpose of improving safety and discipline. The following personnel are authorized to view the tapes:

- The bus driver making the recording
- The student and/or parent/guardian
- School Administrators and Transportation staff involved in the disciplinary process
- Law enforcement officials

Under no conditions will tapes be released to anyone outside the District, except as required by law. They will be treated as protected records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(A)(III) (discipline of habitually disruptive students is required part of safe schools plan)

CROSS REF: JIC, Student Conduct and sub-codes
JK Student Discipline and sub-codes
EEAEC, Student Conduct on Buses