

SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE:

The school bus is an extension of the school building; therefore, all school bus behavior incidents shall be reported to the principal within one (1) school day. All incidents will be addressed according to the Tangipahoa Parish Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

- Behavior incidents are categorized as either major or minor infractions, and the infractions are documented by the bus driver and submitted to the students' school level administrator. Consequences for documented behaviors are issued by the school principal or the principal's designee.
- Major bus infractions such as fighting, drugs, weapons, inappropriate, bodily contact, may warrant more severe consequences that could include, but not limited to suspension from the bus or out of school suspension or recommendation for alternative placement from school. The school level principal will make the determination of consequences after appropriate assessment protocols and thorough investigation of events have been completed.
- In the case, that a bus incident involves students from multiple schools, each school building level principal or designee shall consult with each other to discuss the facts of the case. Each school is responsible for determining the appropriate punishment for the student that attends their school.
- At no time shall the bus operator assume authority for suspending bus privileges or taking disciplinary action.
- A pupil damaging a school bus shall be subject to restitution in addition to a discipline consequence. Any pupil suspended off the bus for damages to that school bus shall not be readmitted until payment in full has been made for such damage or until his/her re-admittance is directed by the Superintendent.

Level I - Offenses

- Refusing to follow driver directions
- Getting on or off the bus at an unauthorized stop without permission
- Standing or sitting improperly while the bus is moving
- Riding the wrong bus without permission from the principal
- General horseplay
- Littering
- Delaying bus services by tardiness, loitering, etc.

***The school administration may classify a Level I offense as a Level II offense if the infraction seriously jeopardizes the health and/or safety of others.**

Level I Consequences

- 1st Referral -- Warning and parent contact
- 2nd Referral -- In school punishment, parent contact and/or one (1) day bus suspension
- 3rd Referral -- Suspended from bus three (3) days and parent conference
- 4th Referral -- Suspended from bus up to five (5) days and parent conference

***Additional Level I referrals will result in administrative review and may be accelerated to a Level II offense.**

Level II Offenses

- Profanity/Obscene Gestures
- Throwing objects
- Rude, discourteous behavior directed at staff
- Vandalism [restitution will be required]
- Harassing, threatening or intimidating another student
- Stealing
- Inappropriate verbal or physical conduct
- Other safety violations that may interfere with the safe operation of the school bus

***The school administration may classify a Level II offense as a Level III offense if the infraction seriously jeopardizes the health and/or safety of others.**

Level II Consequences

- 1st Referral -- Suspension from bus up to ten (10) days and parent conference
- 2nd Referral -- Suspension from bus ten (10) days and parent conference
- 3rd Referral -- Suspension from bus thirty (30) days, possible removal and parent conference

***Additional Level II referrals will result in administrative review and may be accelerated to a Level III offense.**

Level III Offenses

- Possession, use or transfer of weapons
- Sexual offenses (which include sexual acts that do not result in criminal offense)
- Profanity directed at staff
- Impeding the operation of a school bus
- Distribution, sale, purchase, use or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance
- Threatening harm to a school employee
- Bomb threat
- Possession/use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes or vaping devices
- Fighting

***Additional Level III referrals will initiate an administrative review which may result in removal from the bus for the remainder of the school year.**

Level III Consequences

- Any referral - Minimum of (30) days suspension from bus and possible removal from bus for remainder of school year and parent conference.

General Behavior Guidelines

- The School District's Code of Conduct is in effect for all students at all times when being transported on school buses to and from school or school activities. Thus, while students may lose the privilege to ride the bus due to their misconduct, the student may also be disciplined according to the District's Code of Conduct, up to and including suspension, recommendation for expulsion and notification to law enforcement.

***Riding a school bus is a privilege not a right.**