

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March	Descriptor Term: Bus Safety and Conduct	Descriptor Code: 6.308	Issued Date: 07/15/19
		Rescinds:	Issued: 05/10/99; 07/08/13

In order to maintain conditions and atmosphere suitable for learning, no person shall enter onto a school bus except students assigned to that bus or parents of students or other persons with lawful and valid business on the bus.¹

The school bus is an extension of school activity; therefore, students shall conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with the established standards for safety and classroom behavior.

Students are under the supervision and control of the bus driver while on his/her bus, and all reasonable directions given by him/her shall be followed. A driver may remove a student in the event that the driver finds it necessary for the safety of the other student passengers or the driver, provided that the driver secures the safety of the ejected student for the uncompleted trip. A driver shall report to school authorities as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the route, any student refusing to obey the driver or exiting the bus without the driver's permission at a point other than the student's destination for that trip.² A bus driver may use reasonable force when necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another person.³

The principal of the student transported shall be informed by the bus driver of any serious discipline problem and may be called upon to assist if necessary. A student may be denied the privilege of riding the bus if the principal determines that his/her behavior is such as to cause disruption on the bus, or if he/she disobeys state or local rules and regulations pertaining to student transportation.

The suspension of a student from riding the school bus shall follow the same procedures as for any other school suspension.

No student shall be allowed to exit the bus at a stop other than the student's regular bus stop unless the student has provided a note from the parent/guardian to the principal or designee of his or her school. A note from the school office with details of the change shall be presented to the bus driver.

Any student wishing to ride a bus other than his/her designated bus must provide a note from the parent/guardian to the principal or designee of his or her school. A note from the school office with details of the change shall be presented to the bus driver.

Students who transfer from bus to bus while en route to and from school shall be expected to abide by the discipline policies adopted by the Board and rules adopted by the staff of the terminal school.

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO FOOTAGE

Cameras or video cameras may be used to monitor student behavior on school buses transporting students to and from school or extracurricular activities. Photographs and video footage shall be used only to promote the order, safety, and security of students, staff, and property.

Students in violation of bus conduct rules shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with established board policy governing student conduct and discipline.

The district shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to photographs and video footage.³ Parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit a written request within three (3) school days (excludes weekends and school breaks) of the specific date desired to view to the Director of Transportation. Requests should include the name of the parent/guardian’s custodial child to be viewed, bus number, date and time of desired footage, and reason for the request. A time shall be arranged for viewing.

Prior to viewing footage, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be required to sign a confidentiality/non-disclosure agreement. The Director of Transportation/principal/designee shall be present when parent(s)/guardian(s) are provided the opportunity to review photographs and video footage.⁴ Recorded materials shall be maintained by the school district for a minimum of three (3) days unless a written request has been received.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) may not take still photographs or recordings of viewed footage. All photographs and videos are property of Houston County Schools and may not be retained in any form by parent(s)/guardian(s). Requests to view images does not exempt a student from disciplinary action if applicable.

As used in this section, "parent" means the parent, guardian, person who has custody of the child, or individual who has caregiving authority.⁵

The Director of Schools shall develop procedures governing the use of cameras and video cameras in accordance with the provisions of state and federal law and established board policies.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-2008
2. TCA 49-6-2118(d)
3. TCA 49-6-4107
4. TCA 10-7-504; 20 USCA §1232g
5. Public Acts of 2019, Chapter No. 256
6. TCA 49-6-3001

Cross References

- Student Transportation Management 3.400
- Scheduling and Routing 3.401
- Code of Conduct 6.300
- Suspension/Expulsion/Remand 6.316
- Student Records 6.600
- Annual Notification of Rights 6.601
- Inspection and Correction Procedure 6.602