

MANHEIM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

This code reflects an emphasis on positive behaviors and universal values such as **responsibility, respect, and citizenship.**

Maintaining proper conduct on the school bus shall be the joint responsibility of the student, the parent, the bus driver, and school officials. The *School Bus Safety Code of Conduct* provides students and their parents with a summary of the district's behavioral expectations for students while they are on the bus as well as disciplinary actions the district may take in the event a student violates those expectations.

Parents are encouraged to review and discuss the *School Bus Safety Code of Conduct* with their children in an effort to help them understand and assume responsibility for safe, acceptable school bus conduct. School bus transportation is a privilege that may be withdrawn for inappropriate behavior.

1. Students should conduct themselves in the same manner as when in the classroom and follow the behavior rules outlined in the student handbook. The bus driver has the same authority as a teacher in the classroom. Disrespect for the driver will be considered a serious violation.
2. Students must at all times keep heads, arms, and hands inside the bus to avoid possible injury.
3. Remain seated and facing forward while on the bus.
4. Do not stand or play on the roadway while waiting for the bus.
5. Students are to be at their bus stop 5 minutes before pick up time. Drivers are not required to wait for students who are not at their stop at the scheduled pick up time.
6. If you must cross the highway to board the bus, wait until the bus arrives and cross only if the bus has stopped with red warning lights flashing, and all other traffic has stopped.
7. Look both ways before crossing the highway.
8. If you must cross the street after leaving the bus, pass 10 feet in front of the bus, not behind it.
9. The bus shall not move after discharging passengers until all who live on the opposite side of the highway have crossed the street.
10. You may not leave the bus at any place other than your regular stop without permission from the building principal.
11. Keep the bus clean – no eating, drinking, spitting, or gum chewing. Do not litter or throw things out the window.
12. Keep the aisles, steps, and empty seats free from obstruction..
13. Students may talk in a normal conversational tone of voice. The use of obscene language or gestures is prohibited.
14. Never sit in the driver's seat or tamper with the bus controls or emergency equipment.
15. Interaction by students with persons in the vehicle behind the school bus is strictly prohibited.

Items Banned from the school bus:

- Jars, bottles, glass objects
- Weapons, guns, knives, razor blades, squirt guns, fireworks, aerosol cans and non-aerosol spray bottles, matches, lighters, inflated balloons
- Controlled substances including drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and drug paraphernalia
- Large sports equipment such as skis, snowboards, scooters, skateboards
- All other items deemed dangerous or that present a safety hazard

The student is required to plan alternate transportation if any of these items need to go to/from school.

Items not disallowed but requiring special instructions:

- Roller blades, ice skates and other sport footwear must be in a carry bag
- Musical instruments that are too large to fit on a student's lap are prohibited unless prior permission is given by the driver for larger instruments (determined by available room on the bus).
- Electronic items, such as radios, tape players, CD players, gameboys, may be used with headphones so as not to distract the driver or other students.
- Special projects, plants, and food items must be in a closed container to prevent spillage or leaking, and to prevent a safety hazard.
- Any small items like toys, balls, marbles, rubber bands, etc. should be kept in a backpack or bag. Rolling and thrown objects are serious safety hazards to the driver and students
- Cell phones and pagers are not to be used on the bus.

CONSEQUENCES

1. Warning Letter
2. 5 school day bus suspension
3. 10-school day bus suspension
4. Suspended from bus for the remainder of the school year
5. Suspension or expulsion from school

In the event of misconduct by students, ***School Bus Safety Code Referral Forms*** are submitted by the bus driver to the respective building administrator.

- a) Reports of misconduct are to be reported to the building administrator on the day of the occurrence or the next school day.
- b) The building administrator shall impose discipline according to the Manheim Central School District ***School Bus Safety Code of Conduct***. Administrative discretion is always reserved to modify the discipline imposed.