



Code of Student Conduct for School Buses

Please review this Code of Student Conduct for School Buses and safety information below and discuss the importance of good behavior on the bus with your children. By working together, we can achieve the goal we both want — a safe and orderly school trip to school and home.

A student must live 1.5 miles from the school they attend to be eligible to ride a school bus. Bus drivers will be contacting parents prior to the first day of school. For specific information on your child's bus route and bus stop, please contact your area's bus supervisor directly. Their contact information can be found below.

Camden Area
Wanda Martin-Greene
803-425-8943

Elgin Area
Vanessa Garza
803-438-2135

Lugoff Area
William Grigsby
803-438-8017

North Central Area
Ernestine Ross
803-424-2849

Bus Guidelines

- Be on time. Be at your bus stop 10 minutes before your scheduled bus arrival time.
- Stay off the road while you are waiting for the bus.
- Do not move toward the bus door until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has signaled you to approach the bus. Do not approach the bus from the rear.
- Students and parents must not cross the roadway until directed by the driver.
- Exit only at your own bus stop unless you have written permission approved by the principal to get off at another bus stop.
- All students in PreK-2nd grade must have an adult (parent or guardian) at the bus stop in order for the student to be released from the bus unless there's a sibling in the third or higher. In the event no one is present at the stop the child will be returned to his or her school or the resource officer and placed in the after-school program where a fee may be charged to pick the child up.
- Students must ride only their regular assigned bus. Students riding another bus for the purpose of going home with friends or other family members must have written permission from a parent/guardian. Any and all changes to your child's transportation or bus stop must have written permission in advance. The School Principal must approve these requests in advance.
- It is unlawful to detain, board, or otherwise interfere with a school bus. All questions or comments must be directed to the Supervisor, not the driver.

Safety Rules for Bus Riders

- Follow school rules of behavior.
- Follow your bus driver's directions, and never distract the driver from performing his or her duties.
- Keep your hands, feet, arms, legs and all objects to yourself and inside the bus.
- Keep aisles clear at all times.
- Stay in your seat while you are on the bus.
- Do not make excessive noise.
- Keep all cell phones and other electronics quiet and to yourself. No phone calls, taking pictures or video while on the bus.
- Keep the bus clean and undamaged.
- Do not wave or make rude gestures to pedestrians or occupants of other vehicles.

Procedures for Emergencies and Delays

- Breakdowns and delays cannot be avoided. If you or your child has an appointment scheduled after school, it is always best to pick them up in the event there is a breakdown or bus delay.
- In case of a breakdown, parents must present a photo ID and sign out the student with the driver in order to pick them up at the breakdown site.
- In the event that students become uncontrollable in a way that makes it unsafe for a driver to continue the route, law enforcement will be called and unruly students will be removed from the bus.

My Ride K-12

KCSD is using My Ride K-12 this year. The My Ride k-12 application provides quick access to your child's routing information, which can include the bus stop location, bus number, and bus driver's name. Please note that all bus information may not be available in the app until the routes are finalized a few weeks into the school year.

Video Cameras on Buses – Notice to Students and Parents/Legal Guardians

The Kershaw County School District board of trustees has authorized the use of video cameras on district buses. The district will use the video cameras to monitor student behavior in order to promote and maintain a safe environment. Students and parents/legal guardians are hereby notified that the content of the videos may be used in a student disciplinary proceeding. The content of the videos is a confidential student record. The district will retain the videos with other student records only if necessary for use in a student disciplinary proceeding or other matter as determined by the administration. Parents/Legal guardians may request to view videos of their child if the district uses the videos in a disciplinary proceeding involving their child. (Board Policy ECAG Video Monitoring/School Buses)

Items Not Allowed on the Bus

The following items are NOT ALLOWED on a school bus: flowers, balloons, flags, banners, food, live animals, or sports equipment. Items not permitted on the bus must be transported by the parent/guardian. Science projects and musical instruments are allowed provided they can be transported in the student's lap. All aisles, doors, and emergency exits must remain unobstructed at all times.

Discipline

The district's Student Code of Conduct (Policy JICDA) and Administrative Regulation (Policy JICDA-R) expects all students riding on school buses to conduct themselves in a manner that does not endanger and does not contribute to the endangerment of them or other students. Bus Discipline is a part of the total school discipline process. Misbehavior on or about school buses or at school bus stops will not be tolerated.

Bus drivers will report the names of students whose conduct interferes with safe driving to the appropriate school administrator and/or area transportation supervisor. For reporting purposes, as well as disciplinary purposes, misbehavior on or about school buses or at school bus stops will be divided into two main categories: MINOR INFRACTIONS or MAJOR INFRACTIONS. A MINOR INFRACTION may become a MAJOR INFRACTION depending on the severity of the case.

If a student is suspended from riding any or all school buses, all transportation for that student must be provided by the parent/guardian. This includes students who ride a school bus during a field trip, even if they do not ride a school bus to/from school. The Kershaw County School District is not responsible under any circumstance for transporting students who have abused the privilege of riding a school bus.

MINOR INFRACTIONS

A MINOR INFRACTION shall be any misbehavior committed by a student on or about the school bus or bus stop which endangers the safety and well-being of any student(s). These MINOR INFRACTIONS may include:

Disobedience to Authority:

- Direct disobedience to the instructions of the bus driver or assistant.
- Refusal to sit in an assigned seat.
- Refusal to let another student sit in an available seat.
- Riding the incorrect bus without proper written permission from parent/guardian and principal.
- Riding any bus while under suspension or getting back on any bus before the suspension ends.

Safety Risks:

- Out of seat while bus is in motion.
- Failure to sit properly in the seat.
- Placing any part of the body out of the bus window.
- Failure to remain seated until bus comes to a complete stop.
- Failure to safely cross the road as directed by the bus driver or assistant.
- Failure to move away from the bus after exiting.
- Getting off the bus at improper stop.

Disturbances:

- Disruptive behavior, such as pushing, shoving or horseplay.
- Making excessive noise, including yelling out of the bus windows.
- Making obscene gestures to others.
- Using profanity.
- Unauthorized use of cell phones, hand-held devices, or laser pointers.

Miscellaneous Violations:

- Eating and/or drinking without permission.
- Selling candy, doughnuts, etc.
- Act of vandalism totaling \$25 or less.

Any other infraction not mentioned above that meets the definition of MINOR INFRACTION.

CONSEQUENCES OF MINOR INFRACTIONS INCLUDE:

- 1st Offense - Punishment to be determined by the principal
- 2nd Offense - Parent/guardian notified. Punishment to be determined by the principal.
- 3rd Offense - 1-3 days suspension from riding any school buses. A parent/guardian conference will be required for 2 or more days suspension.
- 4th Offense - 5 days suspension from riding any school buses. A parent/guardian conference will be required.
- 5th Offense - Denied the privilege of riding any and all school buses for the remainder of the school year.

MAJOR INFRACTIONS

A MAJOR INFRACTION shall be any misbehavior committed by a student on or about the school bus, or the bus stop which seriously endangers the safety and well-being of any student(s) or which interferes with the safe operation of the bus by the bus driver. These MAJOR INFRACTIONS may include:

Disobedience to Authority:

- Direct disobedience to the instructions of the bus driver or assistant.
- Verbally abusing or making a direct threat towards bus driver or assistant.

Safety Risks:

- Physically interfering with the driver or assistant while the bus is in operation.
- Opening the bus emergency door.
- Throwing objects on the school bus or out the window.
- Possession of fireworks or other dangerous materials.

Disturbances:

- Excessive disruptive behavior, continuing after being warned by the driver or assistant.
- Verbally abusing others.
- Extremely excessive noise (singing, hand clapping, yelling, or stomping of feet).
- Serious arguments with others (standing face to face, arguing and shoving, but no striking).

Direct Physical Harm:

- Spitting on others.
- Physical abuse, fighting or engaging in inappropriate physical contact.
- Indecent exposure.

Substance Violations:

- Possession or use of tobacco or tobacco products or electronic smoking devices, etc.
- Possession or use of controlled substances (drugs, narcotics, or poisons).
- Possession or use of weapons or other dangerous objects.

Miscellaneous Violations:

- Act of vandalism totaling \$25 or more.
- Tampering with video cameras.
- Any other infraction not mentioned above that meets the definition of a MAJOR INFRACTION.

CONSEQUENCES OF MAJOR INFRACTIONS INCLUDE:

- 1st Offense - 1-3 days suspension from riding any school buses. A parent/guardian conference will be required for a 2 or more days suspension.
- 2nd Offense - 5 days suspension from riding any school buses. A parent/guardian conference will be required.
- 3rd Offense - 10 days suspension from riding any school buses. A parent/guardian conference will be required.
- 4th Offense - Denied the privilege of riding any school buses for the remainder of the school year.

Suspension from Riding A School Bus

Student's Right to a Hearing

The principal/designee shall meet with the student for the purpose of:

- a) presenting oral and written notices of the charges against the student
- b) giving the student an opportunity to present the student's side of the story

Parent Conference

When a student is suspended from the bus, the principal/designee will make a reasonable effort to contact and inform the parent/guardian. In addition, within one school day of the beginning of the suspension, the principal/designee will send a notice to the parent/guardian outlining the following information:

- a) the reason leading to the decision to suspend
- b) the date and time when the student will be allowed to resume riding a school bus
- c) a request that the parent/guardian attend a conference to discuss the student's behavior. The parent/guardian is required to respond without delay to any request from school officials to attend a conference regarding his/her child's behavior. Failure to do so could result in charges of education neglect.

Parent's Right of Appeal

If the parent/guardian desires a further review of the suspension, the parent/guardian may appeal directly to the school principal. If an agreement is not reached at the school level, the parent may appeal to the Superintendent or his designee.

Due Process

The School Board and its administrators will treat all students with fairness. The School Board directs school authorities to adhere to federal and state requirements when making decisions directly affecting students' rights. Before school authorities administer disciplinary measures, they will make reasonable inquiry to determine the facts surrounding the offense. The administrator who is inquiring will also give special attention to hearing the student's side of the issue. The nature of the inquiry will vary with the seriousness of the offense and the consequences.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The School District of Kershaw County does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, disability, age, or national origin in its educational programs and employment practices. Questions pertaining to Title IX or Section 504 may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Denise Sowell, Chief Human Resources Officer, School District of Kershaw County, 2029 West DeKalb Street, Camden, South Carolina 29020. Telephone (803) 432-8416. Questions, concerns, complaints, requests for additional information or auxiliary aids or services for effective participation in programs and services may also be directed to Denise Sowell at the address and phone listed above.