

# Student Riding Do's and Don'ts

## Basic Riding Rules

1. Load the bus in an orderly manner.
2. Seat yourself quickly.
3. Stay Seated while the bus is in motion.
4. No eating on the bus.
5. No drinking on the bus other than water.
6. Always keep all body parts inside the bus.
7. Keep conversations in the rows nearest you.
8. Pack it in, pack it out.

## Note from Drivers:

We, as drivers, do not want to have to return to the school any more than you do. We are tasked with driving in heavy traffic accident-free while keeping an eye on what you, the students, are doing on the bus. It is best described as you are playing your racing or some other action-filled game, and you are about to crush it, and your little sibling or someone comes in and starts demanding your attention that second. As you are trying to beat the game, they are relentless until you stop, thus losing the game to pay attention to them. That is like driving a bus. Except real human lives are in our hands. The only reason we ask for you to follow these rules is not to be a pushy adult. We are asking for your help in getting everyone to and from school as safely as possible. You, the student, can be a huge part of that by following the simple rules.

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## Reasons for Each Rule

### 1. Load the bus in an orderly manner.

- a. If you push and shove to get on the bus, someone can get trampled or stuck and injured between the doors and stairs.
- b. In the aisles, a student can trip and fall, and those behind them can step on them or also fall and get hurt.

### 2. Seat yourself quickly.

- a. By choosing your seat and sitting in it, you are allowing others to do the same. It makes getting home quicker and easier.

### 3. Stay Seated while the bus is in motion.

- a. The safety design is less effective if you are standing in the aisle or even in your seating area. School buses do not have seatbelts because they are designed for a safety zone, with padding in the back of the seat in front of you, padding on the seat you are in, the height of the seat, and the little padded rail just below the windows. All this is designed with the student being seated.
- b. If a driver needs to stop suddenly, if you are in the aisle, you can be thrown to the front of the bus or into another seat and severely injured.

### 4. No eating on the bus.

- a. This is a Washington Administrative Code (WAC) regulation that schools and drivers must follow.
- b. If you are eating on the bus and begin to choke, the driver may not see that you are choking. If the driver sees that you are choking, they need to find a place to exit traffic and stop safely to attend to your choking. This takes time and can lead to an emergency that can leave you in the hospital or worse.

### 5. No drinking on the bus other than water.

- a. This rule is for a different reason. Anything you spill may be what you are sitting in the next day. Soda becomes sticky. Milk and coffee can become stinky.

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6. **Always keep all body parts inside the bus.**
  - a. This rule is pretty common since anything you stick out the window can be broken off by just brushing a tree. You can even be ripped out of a bus window.
7. **Keep conversations in the rows nearest you.**
  - a. This is for courtesy as well as safety. You may be asking how my talking can be a safety matter. It isn't until you are screaming, screeching, or otherwise being obnoxious. This can cause the driver to be distracted, thus having to pay attention to you to ensure you are not hurt. This takes the driver's attention off the road and traffic and puts it on you. Did you know in the time it takes to read a billboard, the bus has traveled the length of 2 football fields or 200 yards? Think about how often the driver has had to look at you in the mirror.
9. **Pack it in, pack it out.**
  - a. Anyone who has been hiking, camping, or even going to the beach may have seen a sign like this. All it means is don't trash the place. If you bring paper, notes, or other items on the bus, take them with you when you leave or put them in the trash provided on the bus.

## **Breaking the rules must have consequences.**

1. Suspension from the bus will only happen after due process.
2. The driver cannot suspend you but can have you suspended.

## **The process for suspension from the bus is as follows.**

1. The driver asks the student to stop the unwanted actions. If the student stops, the problem is solved.
2. If the student continues with the unwanted actions, it is reported to the transportation office
3. The transportation office reviews the video and reports the write-up to the school's disciplinary staff.
4. The school staff will review the video; if action warrants, the parents will be called. The parent may be asked to view the video; an action plan will be made at that time, which can lead to suspension.

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5. If, after the parent action plan has been attempted, the student continues the unwanted behavior, the student can be suspended for a decided-upon amount of time from the privilege of riding a school bus. This can only happen after a discussion between the school staff and the transportation department and only after they have reviewed any follow-up videos and reports.
6. If the action is a severe safety violation, the student can be suspended from the bus pending investigation if transportation and the school agree this is needed for the safety of the student or other students.
7. If a student is found to have a weapon of any kind on the bus, the police will be called, and the police may remove the student. If this happens, both transportation and the school will be notified immediately. The school will follow up with any parent affected by that incident.
8. The driver has the right to assign seats as needed on the bus. The driver does not have to explain or have a reason to assign seating.

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I \_\_\_\_\_ (the student) agree to do my best to follow the rules listed above. I \_\_\_\_\_ (the Parent) will hold my child responsible for not doing their best to follow the rules listed above. I, the parent, understand the plan of action if my student is found not to be following the rules.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation Manager: Heath Weiss School Year: 24/25

School Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_ School Year: 24/25

Keep it for your records.

For safety Please have your students at the stop 5 minutes before departure time. the times on the route sheet are the time the bus leaves the stop.