

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION RULES – REVISED SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

Student-Parent Responsibility in School Transportation

1. Students are under the authority of the principal of the school they attend. The driver of the bus is responsible to the school principals for the behavior of students on the buses. The driver must, therefore, prohibit students from:
 - a. Eating, drinking, and chewing gum on the bus
 - b. Throwing objects from the bus
 - c. Exchanging seats while the bus is in motion
 - d. Using tobacco in any form, striking matches or lighters, or possessing knives or other weapons and dangerous objects
 - e. Extending heads, arms, or hands from bus windows
 - f. Vulgar talk, loud noise, or shouting
 - g. Defacing or damaging the bus in any manner
 - h. Using emergency door except in emergencies; and exiting the bus at any place other than the regular stop for each student, except upon written notice from the appropriate school principal
2. Students who destroy or damage school buses or equipment may be placed on immediate suspension from the bus and will be charged for the cost of replacement and/or repairs. Restitution must be made before permission can be granted for such students to again be transported by school bus. Parents/guardians are responsible for restitution.
3. Parents should encourage their children to know and obey all rules and regulations, and to respect the driver and the rights of others.
4. Students may be assigned specific seats if the driver or principal deems such action necessary.
5. Bus schedules must be strictly adhered to. The bus driver will not repeatedly wait on tardy students. Parents should ensure that their children are at the designated bus stop on time each morning.
6. Students should avoid unnecessary conversation with the driver while the bus is in transit.
7. Students must meet the bus at the designated student pick-up point.
8. Students who live on the left side of the road shall remain on the left side of the road until the bus has come to a complete stop, the mechanical stop signal has been extended, and the door opened. When exiting the bus, students who live on the right should walk quickly away from the bus and off the street and students who live on the left or who must cross the road should walk to the front of the bus and wait until the driver signals for them to cross the road.
9. Parents should read and understand the policies, rules and regulations of the Butler County Board of Education and are encouraged to respect and support the drivers and rights of others.
10. Parents should immediately report all incidents or evidence of carelessness or dangerous practices on the bus, on the highway, or on the part of drivers to the transportation supervisor.
11. In areas where the bus must turn around at a house, the turning area must be kept free of parked cars or other vehicles and other obstructions. Adequate space must be provided, and landowners must ensure that culverts, etc. are in good repair.
12. Students must obey the driver promptly and cheerfully.
13. Drivers shall not permit students to ride in any place other than the inside body of the bus.
14. Drivers shall not allow pupils to stand in the doorway or door well of the bus at any time other than when students are entering or leaving the bus.
15. Once a student has been assigned to a specific school bus, he/she shall continue to be transported to and from school on that bus until the transportation supervisor or principal approves a change.
16. The Board of Education reserves the right to assign students to a different bus in order to equalize the loads.
17. A student whose right to bus transportation has been terminated may not ride any Butler County school bus until his/her right to so do has been reinstated.
18. While waiting for or exiting the bus, students should not stand on the roadway, crowd or push to get on or off the bus, and must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the bus to board or the bus door to exit.
19. Students entering the bus should be seated as soon as possible and shall not change seats while the bus is in motion. Students should not place anything in the aisles and should be courteous and responsible passengers at all times.
20. Students are permitted to use cell phones and other electronic devices while riding the school bus. They are not permitted to throw or pass the device around to others on the bus or talk in a loud voice during usage. Students may not take photos or video while on the school bus. Earphones must be used to listen to music or other audio. The Butler County Board of Education is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or electronic devices.
21. **Fighting is strictly prohibited on the school bus, and around the bus while students are entering or leaving the bus. The disruption caused by a fight jeopardizes the bus driver's ability to navigate through traffic and on the roadways, which could cause a collision, serious injury, or death to the riders. In addition, fighting may result in serious bodily harm to other students and/or the bus driver who are not directly involved in the altercation. Therefore, any student(s) who participate in a fight on the school bus will not be allowed to ride any school bus within the school system for one (1) calendar year. The student may be subject to disciplinary action for the infraction in addition to the loss of bus privilege.**

Riding the school bus is a privilege, which may be revoked due to a student's misbehavior.