

Bus Safety Program (Policy EEAE)

Arizona law requires that, with respect to the authority of bus drivers, “Passengers shall comply with all instructions given to them by a school bus driver. A passenger or non-passenger who has boarded the school bus and refuses to comply with the bus driver’s instructions may be surrendered into the custody of a person who is authorized by the school to assume responsibility for the passenger or non-passenger”. (A.A.C. R17-9-104). Bus drivers are required to report student discipline issues to school administrators.

The District’s bus safety program applies to school buses and any other transportation vehicles used by the District to transport students.

Students have the privilege of riding District buses or other vehicles as assigned. Conduct that violates the Student Code of Conduct at bus stops, on District vehicles, in the process of boarding or exiting such vehicle, or otherwise related to the vehicle may result in disciplinary action being taken.

Students receive permission to travel to and from school by bus when prior arrangements have been made between parents and the school. Students not previously assigned to ride a bus, or a particular bus (i.e., to travel with a school friend), must seek permission to do so. The parent must request such permission; the administrator will communicate to the driver accordingly.

Some District school buses are equipped with video surveillance camera systems. These systems have both audio and video recording capability. Viewing of school bus videos is restricted to School District personnel on a need-to-know basis.

School bus rules are created to protect students, parents, staff and the community. Inappropriate behavior by students pulls the driver’s attention away from the road, compromising the bus driver’s ability to operate the bus in the safest possible manner. Students must observe the following rules:

Arriving at pickup point:

- Be on time.
- Walk on the left side facing oncoming traffic if the student must walk along a road.
- Walk on the shoulder of the road where possible.
- Get in line with other students without pushing or crowding; stay off the roadway.

Boarding the bus/vehicle:

- Line up in single file, parallel to the roadway, with younger students in front.
- Wait until the vehicle comes to a complete stop before attempting to board.
- Board the vehicle quickly, but without crowding or pushing.
- Never run on the bus.
- Be particularly careful if you are carrying books or parcels.
- Go directly to your seat. Sit straight, well to the back of the seat. Face the front of the vehicle.

Conduct on the bus/vehicle:

- Remain seated throughout the trip.
- Leave your seat only when the bus has reached its destination and comes to a complete stop.
- Keep your books and parcels on your lap or put them under the seat or on the luggage rack.
- Keep the aisle clear.
- Do not talk to the driver except in case of an emergency.
- Avoid doing anything that might disturb or interfere with the driver. Do not talk loudly or yell. Be courteous at all times.
- Never stick hands, arms, head or feet out of the window.
- Do not open windows without the driver’s permission.
- Do not throw anything within the bus or out of a window.
- Do not touch the emergency door or exit controls or any of the bus safety equipment without the driver’s permission.
- Do not discard refuse (garbage) in the bus.
- Do not eat or drink on the bus, with the exception that students may drink water from plastic water bottles.
- Obey the driver’s directions and instructions at all times.

Musical instruments, athletic equipment and large school projects:

- Should not occupy a seat needed for a passenger.
- Must not be placed in the driver’s compartment or the step well of the bus.
- Must not block the aisle or any emergency exit of the bus at any time.
- Must be under the student’s control at all times or otherwise secured.

Prohibited items:

- Tobacco
- Alcoholic beverages
- Insects, reptiles, or other animals
- Weapons, explosive devices, drugs (including medication) or chemicals

Any item that is otherwise prohibited by Governing Board Policies, Administrative Regulations or law.

Violation of bus rules

Violation of bus rules may include the following actions by the bus driver:

- Counsel the student.
- Move the student to another seat.
- Issue a bus conduct referral incident form to the student and/or the school administration.

Action taken by school administration may include:

LEVEL I	<i>First offense</i>	Conference with student	Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report
	<i>Second offense</i>	Three day suspension of bus riding privileges Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Conference with parent (telephone or in person) and student. If parent fails to attend conference, student will remain suspended from bus until conference has occurred.
	<i>Third offense</i>	Ten day suspension of bus riding privileges Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Conference with parent (telephone or in person) and student. If parent fails to attend conference, student will remain suspended from bus until conference has occurred.
	<i>Fourth offense</i>	Thirty day suspension of bus riding privileges Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Conference with parent (in person) and student. If parent fails to attend conference student will remain suspended from bus until conference has occurred.
	<i>Fifth offense</i>	Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Suspension of bus riding privileges for remainder of school year (or at least 4 months - whichever is greater). Suspension carries through to next school year.

LEVEL II	<i>First offense</i>	Five day suspension of bus riding privileges Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Conference with parent (telephone or in person) and student. If parent fails to attend conference, student will remain suspended from bus until conference has occurred.
	<i>Second offense</i>	Ten day suspension of bus riding privileges Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Conference with parent (telephone or in person) and student. If parent fails to attend conference, student will remain suspended from bus until conference has occurred.
	<i>Third offense</i>	Thirty day suspension of bus riding privileges Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Conference with parent (in person) and student. If parent fails to attend conference student will remain suspended from bus until conference has occurred.
	<i>Fourth offense</i>	Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Suspension of bus riding privileges for remainder of school year (or at least 4 months - whichever is greater). Suspension carries through to next school year.

LEVEL III	<i>First offense</i>	Ten day suspension of bus riding privileges Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Conference with parent (in person) and student. If parent fails to attend conference student will remain suspended from bus until conference has occurred.
	<i>Second offense</i>	Thirty day suspension of bus riding privileges Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Conference with parent (in person) and student. If parent fails to attend conference student will remain suspended from bus until conference has occurred.
	<i>Third offense</i>	Parent signs and returns Misconduct Report	Suspension of bus riding privileges for remainder of school year (or at least 4 months - whichever is greater). Suspension carries through to next school year.

LEVEL I	LEVEL II	LEVEL III
<input type="checkbox"/> Failure to remain properly seated <input type="checkbox"/> Loud disruptive talking or yelling <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to take assigned seat <input type="checkbox"/> Eating/drinking on bus <input type="checkbox"/> Bothering others <input type="checkbox"/> Throwing objects on bus <input type="checkbox"/> Crossing behind the bus <input type="checkbox"/> Continuously late to bus stop <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate conduct at bus stop <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Profanity, obscene language or gestures <input type="checkbox"/> Extending head or arm out bus window <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalizing district property <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse of another student <input type="checkbox"/> Defiant behavior shown to school employee <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting on bus/at a person/from the bus <input type="checkbox"/> Throwing objects at the bus <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting matches/lighter on bus <input type="checkbox"/> Throwing objects from the bus <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse of, or physical assault on school employee <input type="checkbox"/> Drug/alcohol/tobacco use on bus <input type="checkbox"/> Tampering with emergency equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Possession of weapon, simulated <input type="checkbox"/> weapon, or dangerous instrument <input type="checkbox"/> Shoving student into path of vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Physical assault on student on bus <input type="checkbox"/> or at bus stop

Loss of Bus Privilege

- Riding a bus is a privilege. Students may lose their bus riding privileges immediately for serious infractions. School administrators will determine the length of time considering the infraction and behavioral history of the student involved. Bus suspensions may include field trips and activity runs.
- Students who cut, deface or otherwise damage any school vehicle may be suspended or expelled from school. Parents will be liable for damage done to the vehicle by their children.