

Pueblo County School District 70

Bus Code of Conduct

Pueblo County School District 70 provides transportation for our students through a third-party provider, First Student, Inc. We believe that all students should be allowed to ride the bus and have the opportunity to ride the bus to and from school and for field trips and extra-curricular activities. It is important to note that generally, bus ridership is a privilege and is available to all students until the student's conduct on the bus proves otherwise. As a result, we believe that parents and students should be aware of our Code of Conduct expectations that govern bus ridership.

1. Students should be at the bus stop approximately 5 minutes before the designated pick up time.
2. Behaviors at the bus stop should mirror the behaviors a student is expected to exhibit in the school building, i.e. no behavior that endangers the welfare and safety of the student or others.
3. While on the bus, the bus driver is considered an extension of the staff at a school building. As a result, the bus driver is in charge and the students must comply with the request of the driver. Failure to do so will result in a disciplinary report and action.
4. The bus driver set the specific rules for their bus, but there are rules for all students riding the bus;
 - a. No drugs or prescription drugs (without school permission) allowed on the bus.
 - b. No weapons on the bus. i.e. Knives of any kind, BB guns, pellet guns, soft air guns, replicas of weapons, guns themselves or any device that is used as a weapon.
 - c. No use or possession of any form of tobacco.
 - d. No alcohol.
 - e. No matches, lighters, or any type of explosive material, including CO2 cartridges.
 - f. No profanity or profane gestures.
 - g. Loud and disruptive talking or behavior that would distract or impact the driver's ability to drive the bus safely.
 - h. No vandalism or destruction of bus property of any kind. Any vandalism will be dealt with through Law Enforcement and parent will be responsible to pay for the repair of the damaged item, including seat repair. Any seat damage will cost the responsible party a minimum of \$700 per seat section.
5. Students shall board and depart from the bus only at their own school or at their designated stop unless written permission has been received by either the school or transportation department. Forms can be accessed from the school building office that can be provided to the transportation office.

Code of Conduct Violation Process:

First Violation: Driver verbally warns the student and may move the student to a different seat.

Second Violation: Driver issues a written warning (conduct report) to the student that must be signed by the parent and returned to the driver before the student is allowed back onto the bus.

Third Violation: Driver will issue a second written warning that is reviewed by the central transportation department and will result in a 1 day suspension of bus riding privileges. Conduct report must be signed by the parent and returned to the driver before student will be allowed back onto the bus.

Fourth Violation: Driver will issue a third written warning that is reviewed by the central transportation department and will result in a 3 day suspension of bus riding privileges. Conduct report must be signed by the parent and returned to the driver before student will be allowed back onto the bus.

Any further violations will result in suspension from the bus pending a hearing with the Director of Student Services for Pueblo County School District 70. A decision about further ridership privileges will be made at that hearing.

Automatic suspension of ridership privileges include but are not limited to;

- Physical harm or threat of physical harm to the driver or other individuals on the bus.
- Property damage.
- Endangering other vehicles traveling with the bus on roadways.
- Any other behavior that jeopardizes the welfare and safety of individuals on or around the bus.

It is important for parents and students to keep in mind that severe violations of the bus code of conduct can also result in school disciplinary action as well as ridership disciplinary action. Additionally, any suspension of bus ridership on any bus means that ridership on all buses is suspended.

We hope and expect that students will have a safe and pleasurable experience riding the buses provided by the services of First Student. We encourage families to review these basic rules and regulations and support a positive educational experience.