

ACTION AGENDA (X New/___ Unfinished Business)

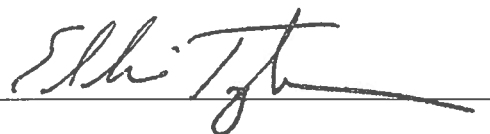
ITEM: DISSEMINATION OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO BUS
TRANSPORTATION CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Background Explanation:

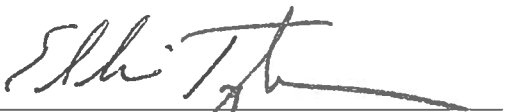
Attached are proposed revision to the Bus Transportation Code of Student Conduct.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approve the dissemination of the proposed revisions to local schools and organizations for input as stipulated herein.

Date: January 9, 2024 Submitted by: 

The superintendent concurs with this recommendation and submits same for Board consideration for approval.

January 9, 2024 
Date Superintendent

BUS TRANSPORTATION CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

BCPS provides bus transportation to students who are eligible to ride based on State and Local Board of Education provisions. Subject to certain exceptions outlined by law, providing students bus transportation is a privilege and not a right. **Safety is of utmost importance in the transportation of students; therefore, the Board expects students to follow all rules and regulations regarding school buses. Students should observe classroom conduct (except for ordinary conversation) at all times when getting on, off, or riding the bus and shall be subject to all school rules and regulations applicable during regular school hours.** The bus/bus stop is an extension of the school in which the student attends.

The principal, or his/her administrative designee, has the authority to deny the privilege of riding a school bus when a student violates established rules and regulations or exhibits behavior deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the safety of others. At such time as it becomes necessary to deny a student the privilege of riding BCPS buses, it becomes the parents' sole responsibility to transport the student to and from school in a timely manner.

Parents/Guardians are urged to contact the school principal with any transportation concerns or problems.

Students are expected to be at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to their bus scheduled pick-up time. The bus will not wait for students who are tardy. Any child who misses the bus will need to be taken to school by a parent/guardian. Students should not chase after the bus. Parents should not attempt to meet up with the bus at other locations. It is extremely dangerous for students to attempt to board a bus at a different location as the bus driver may not see the child in their mirror due to blind spots. Parents are prohibited from having students exit a vehicle behind the bus to board the school bus. Increased risk of students being seriously injured, or death may occur.

1. Behavior Expectations and Specific Rules for Students Riding Buses

BCPS School officials will impose specific rules and regulations for students to follow in riding school buses. The following rules apply as a part of, and in addition to, any bus conduct rules and regulations adopted by individual schools and the transportation department **and the rules in bold are considered serious offenses:**

- A. Obey and cooperate with the bus driver (the driver may assign seats for students);
- B. Be seated immediately after boarding and remain seated;
- C. Be courteous to fellow pupils and the bus driver;
- D. Books, packages, coats, band instruments, and other items should not be in the aisles or in the driver compartment and should not be left on the bus. These items must be held in the child's lap or underneath the seat and must not occupy the seat of another child;
- E. **Fighting, harassing, or attempting to fight other students or the driver will not be tolerated.**
- F. **Students shall not use profane or obscene language;**
- G. Keep feet, arms, and belongings out of the aisle and keep feet off the bus seats;
- H. Do not throw objects in or out of the bus;
- I. Keep hands, head, and objects inside the bus;
- J. Do not eat, drink (water is allowed), or chew gum on the bus;
- K. Do not smoke vape, or use tobacco products;
- L. **Do not bring weapons of any kind on the bus;**
- M. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices on buses is prohibited (unless required by law or allowed under Board policy and this Student Code of Conduct) and must be kept secured inside of the student's belongings (bookbag, purse, pocket, etc.). Cell phones must be on silent/vibrate. Sound should not be heard. All recording of video and/or audio is **prohibited**. Students should remove any earphones or similar electronic equipment prior to loading or unloading the bus as to be able to hear any instructions from drivers or noise

from oncoming vehicles that may illegally pass the school bus stop sign. Students should always focus on the bus driver and traffic when crossing a roadway, entering, and exiting a school bus. Students should not commit careless or willful acts which may cause injury to others;

- N. Keep bus clean by picking up any trash that is dropped;
- O. **Do not commit careless or willful acts which may cause damage to the bus or injury to others (parent/legal guardian may be held financially responsible for repairs or replacement due to bus damage);**
- P. Ride to and from school on the bus assigned unless approved by the principal.

- Q. Students will get on and off at their assigned stop
- R. If needing to cross the street, students should always check traffic and wait on the bus driver's signal before crossing; continually check to ensure all vehicles are stopped.
- S. Students are expected to provide their name and address if asked by the bus driver.

2. Administrative Responses To Discipline Referrals for Violation of Bus Expectations and Rules May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- A. First Offense: Up to 20-day suspension from bus and out of school suspension from school;
- B. Second Offense: Up to 40-day suspension from bus and out of school suspension from school;
- C. Third Offense: up to 1 year suspension from bus and expulsion from school.
- D. **Serious Offenses:** Committing one serious offense may include up to 1 year suspension from the bus and expulsion from school.

3. Student Bus Safety Tips:

- A. Hold onto the handrail to prevent a slip or fall. Go directly to your seat and sit down.
- B. Move away from the bus as soon as you exit.
- C. Look to the rear of the bus for oncoming vehicles as you exit the bus.
- D. Do not play in the loading/unloading zones.
- E. Do not go back to the bus retrieve anything you may have dropped or left behind.
- F. Do not bend down near or under the bus.
- G. Minimize conversation with driver as to not distract him or her while driving or while driver is engaged in safety sensitive procedures.
- H. ALWAYS STAY WHERE THE BUS DRIVER CAN SEE YOU - THINK BEFORE YOU MOVE!!
- I. Get Ready! Before reaching their stop, children should stay seated, but get ready to leave by getting their belongings together.

NOTICE

Parents are not allowed to board a school bus or prevent the bus from leaving an area. All communication with drivers should be through the front-office at the school. See Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act below.

NO TRESPASSING ON SCHOOL BUSES

**OFFENDERS WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE
FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.**

PUNISHMENT COULD RESULT IN A FINE OF UP TO \$6,000 AND UP TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL

CHARLES "CHUCK" POLAND, JR. ACT (ALABAMA ACT 2013 - 347)

No Trespassing on School Buses - Offenders will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Punishment could result in a fine up to \$6,000 and up to one year in jail. Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act (Alabama Act 2013 - 347)

a. A person commits the crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree if he or she is found guilty of doing any of the following:

1. Intentionally demolishing, destroying, defacing, injuring, burning, or damaging any school public bus.
2. Entering a public school bus while the door is open to load or unload students without a lawful purpose, while at a railroad grade crossing, or after being forbidden from doing so by the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized school system official.
3. As an occupant of a public school bus, refusing to leave the bus on demand of the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized school system official.
4. Intentionally stopping, impeding, delaying, or detaining any public school bus being operated for public school purposed with the intent to commit a crime therein.

b. The crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

c. Subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a) do not apply to a child who is less than 12 years of age or to authorized school personnel who are boarding the school bus as a part of their job assignment.

References Ala. Code § 13A - 7-4.2 Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act

Current Policy

BUS TRANSPORTATION CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

BCPS provides bus transportation to students who are eligible to ride based on State and Local Board of Education provisions. Subject to certain exceptions outlined by law, providing students bus transportation is a privilege and not a right. Safety is of utmost importance in the transportation of students; therefore, the Board expects students to follow all rules and regulations regarding school buses. Students should observe classroom conduct (except for ordinary conversation) at all times when getting on, off, or riding the bus and shall be subject to all school rules and regulations applicable during regular school hours. The bus/bus stop is an extension of the school in which the student attends.

The principal, or his/her administrative designee, has the authority to deny the privilege of riding a school bus when a student violates established rules and regulations or exhibits behavior deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the safety of others. At such time as it becomes necessary to deny a student the privilege of riding BCPS buses, it becomes the parents' sole responsibility to transport the student to and from school in a timely manner.

Parents/Guardians are urged to contact the school principal with any transportation concerns or problems.

Students are expected to be at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to their bus scheduled pick-up time. The bus will not wait for students who are tardy. Any child who misses the bus will need to be taken to school by a parent/guardian. Students should not chase after the bus. Parents should not attempt to meet up with the bus at other locations. It is extremely dangerous for students to attempt to board a bus at a different location as the bus driver may not see the child in their mirror due to blind spots. Parents are prohibited from having students exit a vehicle behind the bus to board the school bus. Increased risk of students being seriously injured, or death may occur.

1. Behavior Expectations and Specific Rules for Students Riding Buses

BCPS School officials will impose specific rules and regulations for students to follow in riding school buses. The following rules apply as a part of, and in addition to, any bus conduct rules and regulations adopted by individual schools and the transportation department:

- A. Obey and cooperate with the bus driver (the driver may assign seats for students);
- B. Be seated immediately after boarding and remain seated;
- C. Be courteous to fellow pupils and the bus driver;
- D. Books, packages, coats, band instruments, and other items should not be in the aisles or in the driver compartment and should not be left on the bus. These items must be held in the child's lap or underneath the seat and must not occupy the seat of another child;
- E. Do not fight, harass, quarrel, yell, or use profane or obscene language;
- F. Keep feet, arms, and belongings out of the aisle and keep feet off the bus seats;
- G. Do not throw objects in or out of the bus;
- H. Keep hands, head, and objects inside the bus;
- I. Do not eat, drink (water is allowed), or chew gum on the bus;
- J. Do not smoke vape, or use tobacco products;
- K. Do not bring weapons of any kind on the bus;
- L. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices on buses is prohibited (unless required by law or allowed under Board policy and this Student Code of Conduct) and must be kept secured inside of the student's belongings (bookbag, purse, pocket, etc.). Cell phones must be on silent/vibrate. Sound should not be heard. All recording of video and/or audio is **prohibited**. Students should remove any earphones or similar electronic equipment prior to loading or unloading the bus as to be able to hear any instructions from drivers or noise from oncoming vehicles that may illegally pass the school bus stop sign. Students should always focus on the bus driver and traffic when crossing a roadway, entering, and exiting a school bus. Students should not commit careless or willful acts which may cause injury to others;
- M. Keep bus clean by picking up any trash that is dropped;
- N. Do not commit careless or willful acts which may cause damage to the bus or injury to others (parent/legal guardian may be held financially responsible for repairs or replacement due to bus damage);
- O. Ride to and from school on the bus assigned unless approved by the principal.

- P. Students will get on and off at their assigned stop
- Q. If needing to cross the street, students should always check traffic and wait on the bus driver's signal before crossing; continually check to ensure all vehicles are stopped.
- R. Students are expected to provide their name and address if asked by the bus driver.

2. Administrative Responses To Discipline Referrals for Violation of Bus Expectations and Rules May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- A. First Offense: Up to 20-day suspension from bus and out of school suspension from school;
- B. Second Offense: Up to 40-day suspension from bus and out of school suspension from school;
- C. Third+ Offense: up to 1 year suspension from bus and expulsion from school.

3. Student Bus Safety Tips:

- A. Hold onto the handrail to prevent a slip or fall. Go directly to your seat and sit down.
- B. Move away from the bus as soon as you exit.
- C. Look to the rear of the bus for oncoming vehicles as you exit the bus.
- D. Do not play in the loading/unloading zones.
- E. Do not go back to the bus retrieve anything you may have dropped or left behind.
- F. Do not bend down near or under the bus.
- G. Minimize conversation with driver as to not distract him or her while driving or while driver is engaged in safety sensitive procedures.
- H. ALWAYS STAY WHERE THE BUS DRIVER CAN SEE YOU - THINK BEFORE YOU MOVE!!
- I. Get Ready! Before reaching their stop, children should stay seated, but get ready to leave by getting their belongings together.

NOTICE

Parents are not allowed to board a school bus or prevent the bus from leaving an area. All communication with drivers should be through the front-office at the school. See Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act below.

NO TR SPASSING ON SCHOOL BUSES

OFFENDERS WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.

PUNISHMENT COULD RESULT IN A FINE OF UP TO \$6,000 AND UP TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL

CHARLES "CHUCK" POLAND, JR. ACT (ALABAMA ACT 2013 - 347)

No Trespassing on School Buses - Offenders will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Punishment could result in a fine up to \$6,000 and up to one year in jail. Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act (Alabama Act 2013 - 347)

a. A person commits the crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree if he or she is found guilty of doing any of the following:

1. Intentionally demolishing, destroying, defacing, injuring, burning, or damaging any school public bus.
2. Entering a public school bus while the door is open to load or unload students without a lawful purpose, while at a railroad grade crossing, or after being forbidden from doing so by the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized school system official.
3. As an occupant of a public school bus, refusing to leave the bus on demand of the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized school system official.
4. Intentionally stopping, impeding, delaying, or detaining any public school bus being operated for public school purposed with the intent to commit a crime therein.

b. The crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

c. Subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a) do not apply to a child who is less than 12 years of age or to authorized school personnel who are boarding the school bus as a part of their job assignment.

References Ala. Code § 13A - 7-4.2 Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act