THE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG LEADERS

BUS CONDUCT

All Code of Conduct Rules and Consequences apply to events that occur on the bus or at a bus stop.

Duties & Responsibilities of School Bus Passengers

The school principal/assistant principal shall make certain that all passengers assigned to a school bus are informed and cautioned through class instruction, supervision and otherwise, of the responsibility of the individual passenger for conduct and safety. The principal should also acquaint the parents/guardians of each passenger with the responsibilities expected of them and their child. Each bus passenger shall cooperate willingly with any school official, bus driver, and bus monitor.

Conduct and Safety Rules for School Bus Passengers

1. Behavior and Safety at the Bus Stop – The behavior and the safety of the passenger is the responsibility of the parent/guardian until the student boards the bus and after the student exits the bus at his or her scheduled bus stop. (Safety concerns should be reported to the school principal or appropriate law enforcement agency.

2. Safe Route to Bus Stop – In walking to a bus stop parents and passengers should decide the safest route. If no sidewalk, passengers should walk to the left of the street or highway on the road shoulder facing traffic.

3. Being on Time – Passengers must be on time and at the bus stop. The driver has a schedule to follow and cannot wait on tardy passengers. The driver is not obligated to blow the horn or wait for passengers not in sight.

4. At the Bus Stop – A passenger must stay 10 feet off the street or roadway. A child should never approach a school bus until the bus is completely stopped, all red lights are flashing, the stop sign out, the walk arm extended and the driver has motioned it is safe. Then the passenger must check to make sure all vehicles are stopped.

5. Entering the Bus – While boarding the bus the passenger should use the handrail and watch his/her step.

6. Taking a Seat – When a passenger enters the school bus he/she should take their assigned seat immediately and remain seated. Absolutely no moving around on the bus while the bus is in motion.

7. Opening Windows – A passenger must ask permission if the window needs to be opened. A passenger must never hang any part of his/her body out of the school bus window.

8. Throwing Objects, Shouting – Objects should never be thrown about in the bus or out the windows. A passenger should not shout and wave to pedestrians or occupants of other vehicles from the bus windows. Passengers should talk quietly.

9. Eating – A passenger should never eat or drink on the bus.

10. Keeping the Aisle Clear – Personal belongings should be kept on the lap or under the seat. Arms and legs must be kept out of the aisle.

11. Bullying – Passengers should never harass or abuse the driver or another passenger verbally or physically. This is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Failure to comply may result in loss of bus privileges.

12. Indecent Language, Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol, and Gang Activity – Passengers must never use profanity or indecent language, tobacco, drugs, or alcoholic beverages while riding the bus. Gang colors, hand gestures, or related activity shall not be displayed.

13. Weapons, Firearms, and Dangerous Instruments- No student shall possess, handle or transmit any object known or fashioned as a weapon, or any firearms, or any dangerous instrument that can cause bodily harm on a school bus.

14. Diverting the Driver– A passenger must never be disrespectful or distract the driver's attention in any way. Disruptive behavior constitutes any physical or verbal action, which reasonably could disrupt, disturb, or interfere with peace, order, and/or discipline while on the bus.

15. Silence at Railroad Crossings – Passengers must maintain complete silence at all railroad crossings.

16. Care of the Bus – A passenger must never mar or deface the bus in any way. Vandalism of state property may result in dismissal of bus privileges and reimbursement for damage cost.

17. Emergency Equipment – Passengers must never tamper with the emergency door, emergency windows, roof hatches, fire extinguishers, roof hatches, or video equipment. These features are put in place for safety purposes and should always be ready for use when needed.

18. Bus and Seat Assignment – Passengers shall never attempt to ride on a school bus, unless assigned to it by the principal. It is unlawful for a person to ride on a school bus without prior assignment. (GS.115-184(a).) A parent must request any change of bus assignment in written form to the principal. Bus drivers shall assign seats and passengers must sit in assigned seats.

19. Inappropriate Items – Any device disruptive to the bus ride to include electronic devices, including but not limited to tablets, cell phones, and laser devices will not be displayed or utilized while on the school bus.

20. Code of Conduct –All code of conduct rules and consequences apply to events on the bus or at the bus stop. (See Code of Conduct Booklet for more violations defined).

21. Authority – The driver of a school bus subject to the direction of the principal shall have complete authority over and the responsibility for the operation of the bus and the maintaining of good order and conduct upon such bus, and shall report promptly to the principal any misconduct upon such bus or disregard or violation of the driver's instruction by any person riding upon such bus. (GS.115C-245(b).)

Bus Code Violation Definition – School transportation service is a privilege, not a right. Students at all times while riding a school bus will observe the directives of the school bus driver and all other rules outlined here and in the Code of Conduct booklet. Repeated discipline infractions on the bus may result in loss of riding privileges.

Minor Offenses

Offense 1: Loud and boisterous talking or yelling from the bus window will not be permitted. Students shall show respect for churches, funerals, and emergency situations.

Offense 2: Food items shall not be taken onto any bus with the exception of authorized (lunch) containers.

Offense 3: A student shall ride only the bus(es) to which he/she has been assigned and shall not be discharged at any stop other than his/her regular stop unless expressly authorized by the principal/designee. No student who boards the bus at his/her home shall leave the bus until he/she arrives at his/her assigned school.

Offense 4: Students must be seated while the bus is in motion.

Minor Offense Consequences

Referral 1: The parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian will be contacted and the student will be assigned a seat.

Referral 2: The student will not be allowed to ride the bus from one (1) to five (5) days. When the student is allowed to ride the bus again, he/she will be assigned a seat.

Referral 3: The student will not be allowed to ride the bus from five (5) to (10) days. When the student is allowed to ride the bus again, he/she will be assigned a seat.

Major Offenses

Offense 5: No student shall interfere in any way with the safe operation of school buses. Behavior, which distracts the driver from his/her function of operating the bus, will not be tolerated. Students shall follow the directives of the driver at all times.

Offense 6: Vandalism of the bus is prohibited. If the repair cost is over $100, in addition to providing restitution, the student involved will serve an OSS.

Offense 7: Pushing and shoving, cursing or other vulgarity, fighting, possessing fireworks, possessing tobacco, or throwing objects of any sort will not be permitted.

Offense 8: The emergency door shall not be opened except in case of an emergency.

Offense 9: Throwing items out of the windows of the bus or having arms or other items held out the window of the bus is prohibited.

Major Offense Consequences

Referral 1: The student will not be allowed to ride the bus from one (1) to (5) days. When the student is allowed to ride the bus again, he/she will be assigned a seat.

Referral 2: The student will not be allowed to ride the bus from five (5) to (10) days. When the student is allowed to ride the bus again, he/she will be assigned a seat.

Referral 3: The student will not be allowed to ride the bus for an extended period of time not to exceed the remainder of the school year.

NOTE: The above lists may not cover all possible violations. Similar offenses shall be categorized major or minor and handled in a like manner as they occur