

Weakley County Board of Education

Descriptor Code:
6.308

Bus Conduct

Revised Date:
10/21/14

In order to maintain conditions and atmosphere suitable for learning, no person shall enter onto a school bus except students assigned to that bus or parents of students or other persons with lawful and valid business on the bus.¹

The school is responsible for a student from the time he/she gets on the bus in the morning until he/she gets off the bus in the afternoon—not just while he/she is on school grounds. Therefore, student misbehavior on the bus will be dealt with in the same manner as if he/she were at school.

The school bus is an extension of school activity; riding the school bus is a privilege extended to students. Therefore, students shall conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with the established standards for safety and classroom behavior. Students can be removed at anytime for disruptive, unsatisfactory conduct. All students are under the supervision and control of the bus driver. All reasonable directions given by him/her shall be followed.

A driver may remove a student in the event that the driver finds it necessary for the safety of the other student passengers or the driver, provided that the driver secures the safety of the ejected student for the uncompleted trip. A driver shall report to school authorities as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the route, any student refusing to obey the driver or exiting the bus without the driver's permission at a point other than the student's destination for that trip.²

The principal of the student transported shall be informed by the bus driver of any serious discipline problem and may be called upon to assist if necessary. A student may be denied the privilege of riding the bus if the principal determines that his/her behavior is such as to cause disruption on the bus, or if he/she disobeys state or local rules and regulations pertaining to student transportation.

Principals may suspend or recommend expulsion of student(s) for disobedience or disturbance on a bus in the same manner as for any other infraction that occurs in the school. The suspension of a student from riding the school bus shall follow the same procedures as for any other school suspension.

Any student wishing to ride a bus other than his/her designated bus must have written parental permission and the approval of the principal or his/her designee.

USE OF VIDEO CAMERAS

Video surveillance cameras may be used to monitor student behavior on school vehicles transporting students to and from school or extracurricular activities. Video surveillance shall be used only to promote the order, safety, and security of students, staff and property.

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STUDENTS SHALL OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

1. Be at the assigned location at the proper time to catch the bus.
2. Stand well off the road and stand clear of the bus until it comes to a complete stop.
3. Load in an orderly manner and be seated before the bus starts; must not move around while bus is in motion.
4. In unloading, crossing streets or roads the student shall do so under direction of the driver.
5. Be careful in approaching bus stops; walk on the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic; when getting off the bus cross the road only after the bus driver has signaled that it is safe.
6. Be on time for the bus and help the driver keep on his schedule.
7. Reach a seat in the bus without disturbing others; remain seated while the bus is in motion.
8. Obey driver promptly and cheerfully.
9. Treat driver as well as other students with courtesy.
10. Keep talking, laughing, or confusion to a minimum so as not to distract the driver's attention.
11. Keep the aisle clear of all items: books, lunch boxes, etc.

Cursing or smoking on the bus will result in suspension from riding the bus for a minimum of three (3) days. These regulations shall be posted in each bus:

1. Observe the same rules of conduct as in the classroom.
2. Be courteous and use no profane language
3. Keep the bus clean.
4. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
5. Cooperate with the driver.
6. Do not smoke.
7. Do not be destructive.
8. Stay in your seat.
9. Keep hands, feet and heads inside the bus.
10. Bus driver has authority to assign seats.

Legal Reference:

1. TCA 49-6-2008
2. P.C. 261 (2007)

Cross References:

Student Transportation Management 3.400
Scheduling and Routing 3.401
Discipline Procedures 6.313
Suspension 6.316
Student Records 6.600-604