

White County School System - Transportation Department

These rules will be posted on each bus:

1. Students will follow directions of the driver.
2. Students should be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives, waiting in a safe place, clear of traffic and 12 feet from where the bus stops.
3. Students will cross the roadway in front of the bus after the bus has stopped, they have looked at the driver for a hand signal, and they have looked in both directions for traffic; left, right, left.
4. Students will go directly to a seat when entering the bus. Keep the aisles and exits clear.
5. Students will remain properly seated, back against the back of the seat, bottom against the bottom of the seat, and keep hands to themselves.
6. Students will not eat, drink, vape, or bring tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substances on the bus.
7. Students will not carry animals, glass objects, nuisance items, hazardous materials, or weapons onto the bus. Students may carry only objects that can be held in their laps.
8. Students will refrain from using loud voices, profanity, and/or obscene gestures, and respect the rights and safety of others.
9. Students will stay seated until time to get off the bus. The open door is the signal to get up from the bus seat.
10. Students are expected to ride the bus to which they have been assigned and to get off at their assigned bus stop. Only in the event of an emergency, as determined by the principal or their representative, will a student be allowed to ride a different bus. Notification of this emergency must be sent to the school in a written note signed by the parent/guardian. The school administrator may provide a bus pass granting permission.

NOTICE:

It shall be unlawful for any person to carry or to possess or have under control any weapon within a school safety zone or at a school building, school function, or on school property or on a school bus or on other school transportation furnished by the school. The term "Weapon" means and includes any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, and any stun gun or taser as defined in subsection (a) of Code Section 16-11-106.

Punishment: Any person convicted of a violation of this subsection involving a dangerous weapon or machine gun, as such terms are defined in Code Section 16-11-121, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or by imprisonment for a period of not less than five nor more than ten years, or both. A child or juvenile, who violates this subsection, may be subject to the provisions of Code Section 15-11-601.

White County Department of Family and Children Services

2104.4 Lack of Supervision, Guideline

Use the following Guidelines for determining the level of neglect that exist when children are alone without adult supervision.

- Children eight years or younger should not be left alone;
- Children between the ages of nine years and twelve years based on the level of maturity may be left alone for brief (less than two hours) periods of time and,
- Children thirteen years and older who are at an adequate level of maturity may be left alone and may perform the role of babysitter as authorized by the parent for up to twelve hours

1. Bus Conduct - This policy shall be distributed to all students riding school buses at the beginning of each school year. The bus driver is responsible for the care and safety of the students and is in complete charge at all times. The driver's instructions are to be obeyed.
 - a. Bus drivers are to deal with children in a friendly but firm manner at all times.
 - b. Problems of a serious nature shall be reported promptly to the Principal using the written Bus Discipline Referral form. A copy will be given to the Transportation Director.
 - c. Situations where injuries or fighting occur should be reported to the principal by phone immediately upon completion of the route.
 - d. The principal will discuss the behavior with the pupil, and if necessary, with the parent.
 - e. Should there be any unsatisfactory behavior on the bus, the behavior shall be reported to the principal and the principal will notify the parent.
 - f. If the problem cannot be resolved, the principal may deny the privilege of School Bus Transportation.
 - g. When the right to bus transportation is denied to a pupil, this denial does not change the requirements of attendance at school. Under such conditions, it is the responsibility of the parent to transport the student to and from the school.
 - h. The principal may restore the right to bus transportation to a pupil when needed.
 - i. Drivers may arrange the seating of students to promote order on the bus when needed.
 - j. Disputes between children at the bus stops are a matter between students and their parents.
 - k. Parents will be responsible for willful damage to a bus by their child.
2. Student Rules – Conduct, these rules are designed to provide each student with safe, orderly and respectful transportation on the school bus to and from school.
 - a. Pushing, shoving, and fighting on the school bus is not permitted.
 - b. The use of vulgar language or profanity is not allowed.
 - c. The use of fire in any way is prohibited.
 - d. The possession, use, or sale or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited.
 - e. The possession or display of dangerous weapons, such as knives, glass objects, rocks, or other dangerous objects are not permitted.
 - f. Students will not disturb the driver in any way that might cause a distraction or accident.
 - g. The use of tobacco/nicotine in any form is prohibited.
3. Student Rules and Safety, these rules are developed to make the trip to and from school on the school bus as safe as possible.
 - a. Students will be seated quickly and remain seated in one seat throughout the trip.
 - b. Students will not cross the road until directed to do so by the driver – walk do not run.
 - c. Students will cross the road four steps in front of the bus and will look both ways and at the driver and traffic before crossing.
 - d. Students will not stand or sit in front of the safety line (forward of the front passenger seat).
 - e. Students will not be permitted to open and close the entry door.
 - f. Students will keep hands, head, and other parts of the body inside the bus at all times.
 - g. No glass or other breakable or sharp objects will be permitted on the bus.
 - h. The rear door of the bus is for emergency use only. It shall not be opened at any time except in the case of an emergency.
 - i. When entering or leaving the bus, students will not go behind the bus to cross the road.
 - j. Students will not pick up any objects near the rear wheel of the bus.
 - k. Students will not engage in scuffling or horse play while loading or unloading the bus.
 - l. Students will go directly from the school to their bus in the afternoon.
 - m. Students will not enter the loading area after buses start to move. Drivers have been instructed not to stop for students as buses start to move out in the afternoons, except when a student is in danger.
 - n. Students will not bring water for any means of squirting or throwing water on the bus at any time.
 - o. Students will wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before attempting to board or leave the bus.
 - p. Drivers will not allow students to get off the bus except at home or school without written permission.
 - q. The school bus driver shall not put students off the bus for misconduct.
4. Student Rules
 - a. If any student is late often, it means that other students are being delayed. If several students are regularly late, then the bus would have to start earlier in the morning. For these reasons, each student is expected to be ready when the bus arrives each morning. Students should be at the stop five (5) minutes before the bus arrives.

Bus Code of Conduct:

Riding a school bus is a privilege. The privilege can be lost if a student's behavior is disruptive or dangerous. Specific provisions of current Georgia law that require specific penalties include:

1. Students are prohibited from acts of physical violence or bullying as defined in Official Code of Georgia, Annotated (O.C.G.A.). This shall include physical assault or battery against the bus driver, other students on the bus, or any other person on a bus.

Physical violence is defined as intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature, or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless in defense of himself or herself as provided in Code Section 16-3-21.

Bullying is defined as any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person when accompanied by the apparent present ability to do so or any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm (Code Section 20-2-751.4).

Behavior Management – Bus Discipline

The following guideline will be used by when dealing with bus referrals:

1. Bus drivers should verbally warn students when behaviors do not meet the minimum expectations. They may assign seats or change the assigned seats to help manage problems.
2. Parents may be contacted by phone. The driver may call the parent directly or they may ask the Transportation Director or school administrator to make contact if needed. This phone contact will allow the parent to assist with the unwanted behaviors. Discipline issues should never be discussed with an adult while on a route. All parent conferences should be held at a school or other designated area.
3. First Referral – This referral will give the administration an opportunity to contact the parents. A warning will be given at a minimum.
4. Second Referral

Grades K-5	The student will be suspended from riding all buses for 1 day
Grades 6-12	The student will be suspended from riding all buses for 3 days
5. Third Referral

Grades K-5	The student will be suspended from riding all buses for 3 days (Parent Conference required)
Grades 6-12	The student will be suspended from riding all buses for 5 days (Parent Conference required)
6. Fourth Referral

Grades K-5	The student will be suspended from riding all buses for 5 days
Grades 6-12	The student will be suspended from riding all buses for 10 days and may be assigned alternate means of transportation for the remainder of the year.
7. Fifth Referral

Grades K-12	The student may be suspended from riding all buses for the remainder of the school year. Note: Alternate means of transportation may be provided at the discretion of the School System.
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Note: Administrative discretion can and may be used at all times when dealing with bus discipline. The number of days of suspension can be greater if the behavior warrants. The goal of discipline is to correct the unwanted behavior(s). Our goal is to have safe and accident free transportation of our students.

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