

Descriptor Term: STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES	Descriptor: JICC	Issued: 07/28/2009
	Rescinds: JICC	Issued: 06/26/2001

BOARD POLICY

The Tupelo Public School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly environment during bus transportation services for eligible students. District school buses are considered extensions of the school environment and all provisions of the student Code of Conduct apply to students while on school buses. Any student whose conduct on a school bus is improper or jeopardizes the safety of other students may be subject to discipline pursuant to the student Code of Conduct and may have his/her transportation services suspended.

The following guidelines are established:

Instructions to Pupils Who Ride School Buses Loading and Unloading

1. Be at your assigned loading zone on time.
2. Exercise extreme caution in getting to and from your assigned bus stop.
3. Look in both directions before stepping from behind parked cars.
4. Stay well off the roadway until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver indicates that it is safe to board.
5. Do not play on or near the road while waiting for the bus to arrive.
6. Look in both directions before crossing any roadway.
7. Never walk on the road when there is a sidewalk or pathway.
8. Always walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic and step off the road when a motor vehicle approaches.
9. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to load or unload.
10. Use a handrail while getting on and off the bus.
11. If possible wear white or light colored clothing or carry a flashlight when you walk on the roadway at night in order that the motoring public might be aware of your presence.
12. When you must cross the road to enter the bus, or after leaving the bus, always cross in front of the bus.

While on the Bus

1. Do not distract the driver's attention other than when necessary.
2. **Keep hands, feet, and all belongings to yourself.**
3. Talk to your friends in a normal tone and ~~do not shout~~ **low volume. Never shout.** Do not talk or make unnecessary noise when the bus is approaching and crossing a railroad or a highway intersection
4. Keep head, hands, and articles inside the bus.
5. Do not bring unauthorized articles on the bus (i.e., combustibles, large articles, weapons, drugs, alcohol, etc.)
6. Do not smoke or use profane language.
7. Do not fight or scuffle.
8. Be courteous to and follow the instructions of the bus driver and safety patrol.

School Bus Infractions

1. Improper boarding/departing
2. Bringing articles aboard bus of injurious or objectionable nature or prohibited by school policy
3. Failure to remain seated
4. Refusing to obey driver
5. Fighting/pushing/tripping
6. Hanging out of windows
7. Throwing objects in or out of bus

8. Lighting matches/smoking on bus
9. Spitting/littering
10. Unnecessary noise
11. Tampering with bus equipment
12. Rude, discourteous, and/or distracting conduct
13. Destruction of property
14. Bullying
15. Other misbehavior which disregards safety, well-being and respect for others

Sanctions and Procedures for Bus Infractions

1. First Written Infraction.
 - Probation imposed for up to ten (10) school days.
 - May result in one (1) day suspension from all TPSD buses.
 - Special seating for offender during probation.
 - Parent contacted by phone and a Parent's copy of bus incident report mailed home by regular mail with sanctions listed.
 - Driver given his or her copy of incident report with sanction imposed.
 - Additionally, the student will receive the appropriate penalty on the TPSD discipline ladder.
2. Second Written Infraction.
 - Three (3) days suspension from all TPSD buses.
 - ~~Parent's copy of bus incident report mailed home or telephone call (call optional).~~ Parent conference to review bus incident report.
 - Driver given copy of incident report with sanction imposed.
 - Additionally, the student will receive the appropriate penalty on the TPSD discipline ladder.
3. Third Written Infraction.
 - Five (5) days suspension from all TPSD buses.
 - Conference to be held with the principal or designee and parent to address the misbehavior.
 - Parent's copy of bus incident report presented at conference.
 - Driver given copy of incident report with sanctions imposed.
 - Additionally, the student will receive the appropriate penalty on the TPSD discipline ladder.
4. Fourth Written Infraction.
 - Thirty (30) days suspension from all TPSD buses.
 - Parent's copy of bus incident report mailed home by registered mail or hand delivered by school official.
 - Additionally, the student will receive the appropriate penalty on the TPSD discipline ladder.

Each building principal will be responsible for handling discipline problems associated with misbehavior on school buses. Habitually disruptive behavior as defined in the Code of Conduct on the bus will subject the student to automatic expulsion on the occurrence of the third act of disruptive behavior during a school year

Legal Reference: MCA § 37-55-11
Effective July 28,2009