

## Section 400: Students

### **Student Conduct on the School Bus Administrative Rule**

**Code #443.02AR 2**

The Tri-County Area School District Board of Education views the transporting of students as an extension of the classroom; and, therefore, all rules and regulations applicable to students in classroom apply.

The Principals and/or supervisors have the co-responsibility for the safety and discipline of students in their schools from the time the students board the bus for school until they exit the bus for home. Therefore, the Principal or supervisor is responsible for disciplinary action referred to him/her by a driver or chaperone.

It is the position of the Board that any behavior demonstrated by a student that distracts the bus driver from maintaining constant and vigilant attention to driving the bus creates a potentially dangerous condition and therefore requires immediate action to correct. The Board expects all students to display the proper behavior that leads to optimum safety for all individuals on the school bus regardless of how they perceive or feel about the driver or the physical/mechanical condition of the school bus.

Anytime a discipline referral is submitted to the Principal, the parent is to be notified of the incident as soon as possible. The matter is to be discussed with the parent and the student with a decision made regarding any discipline. The bus driver is to be notified if the discipline impacts the student's ability to ride the school bus. Students written up for inappropriate behavior or actions can be denied transportation on the school bus from one to five days. The Board can deny bus riding privileges for any length of time as deemed appropriate beyond the five days, provided appropriate Board action is taken. The Board views the parent(s)/guardian(s) as the most influential and important person(s) in a child's life and therefore expects support from parent(s)/guardian(s) when disciplinary action is taken by the school. All disciplinary action taken shall be in the best interest of children.

The Board views the following actions by students while riding on a school bus to be distracting and subsequently pose a potentially dangerous situation for all the riders on the school bus. The following infractions are not all inclusive and are subject to disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the Principal in consultation with the driver: fighting; grabbing person(s) belongings; verbal abuse (name calling, swearing, profanity); striking another person in fun or intentionally; shouting or loud talking; music playing (uninvited); eating food without permission (includes snacks); drinking soda, etc. without permission; tripping; pushing; littering; talking back to the driver; making annoying noises or sounds; refusal to allow others to sit in the same seat; refusing to follow a directive by the driver; moving from seat to seat without permission (even when the bus is not

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moving); hands, arms, legs, head protruding out of windows; displays of disrespect to non-passengers (following vehicles, i.e. giving the finger, sexually explicit gestures, mooning); demonstrating annoying affection with the opposite/same sex (hugging, kissing, sitting on lap, unnecessary touching); crawling over and under seats; unwanted teasing; refusal to sit in an assigned seat; damage to school property; damage to school bus; damage or destruction to personal property (any damage to property will require repayment prior to reinstatement of riding privileges); use of tobacco products; use of alcohol or drugs (possession of tobacco products, alcohol or drugs requires immediate confiscation with no return); throwing objects out the windows; shouting; swearing, or using profanity at individuals out of a window or door of the bus; refusal to close windows when directed; refusal to place feet, legs or other portions of body in bus seat and out of aisle of the bus; transportation of illegal or dangerous materials, weapons (i.e. knives, firearms, explosives, fire crackers, cherry bombs, or smoke release devices) (all weapons, firearms, explosives, firecrackers, smoke release devices are subject to immediate revocation with no return); squirt guns or other water squirting devices (includes water balloons); placing gum or other food on people or property; intentionally dirtying the bus (smearing food, spilling liquids, soda, water, juices, etc.) (all spills or dropping of foods, snacks to be cleaned up); provoking others to fight, argue or distract (putting others up to do something improper, illegal or annoying); defacing property (school or bus, personal owned) with paint, pencil, pen, knives, sharp objects, scrapers, glue, white-out, etc (i.e. writing names, vulgarity or profanity about any individual, including self); bullying others (shoving, pushing or threatening others, instilling fear of physical harm); violation of privacy of person (refusal to leave somebody alone); huffing, using laser pointers, and igniting aerosol cans.

A "Bus Conduct Report" may be written by the driver and submitted to the bus contractor. The bus contractor will mail copies to the parties in accordance with the document. Bus Conduct Reports are also placed in the student's cumulative file. Upon the issuance of a Bus Conduct Report, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must come to school for a conference with the bus driver and Principal. The student may be suspended from riding the bus for one to five days and may be assigned a seat for a period of time to be determined at the conference. In cases of repeated misconduct, or where the Principal recommends a suspension of more than five days, or where the conduct involves an illegal act, the matter will be brought before the Board to consider expulsion from bus riding, in accordance with state law.

Prior Approval:	December 19, 2006
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