

LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS REGULATIONS FOR PUPILS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

The privilege of any pupil to ride a school bus is condition upon his/her good behavior and observance of the following rules and regulations. Any pupil who violates any of these rules or regulations will be reported to the principal of the school the pupil attends for necessary action. These rules and regulations also apply on all field trips and athletic/extra-curricular activities utilizing a bus.

1. Students riding the buses are under the direct supervision and directions of the bus driver, who will direct students in matters of conduct and safety. He/she will report any student's misbehavior to the transportation director/ and a report will be made to the principal.
2. **Be on time.** The bus cannot wait beyond its regular schedule for those who are tardy. Be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
3. Pupils shall ride their assigned bus and no other bus, and no other persons shall be allowed to ride a bus or be dropped-off at a different location, unless a bus pass is issued by the principal and presented to the bus driver.
 - a. Bus passes will only be issued by letter or in person (parent or guardian) through the principal's office. Request for bus passes over the phone will not be accepted except in cases of EXTREME emergencies whereby the principal/and or transportation director will make arrangements for the child with the guardian for a bus pass (this pass will only be issued for transportation to an individual on the students check out list recorded in the office). These measures are taken to ensure the safety of each child.
 - b. Parents/Guardians of grade school students shall meet or at the bus stop during drop-offs to ensure their child's safety. Elementary students will be returned to their schools if no one is available at their stop.
4. Pupils shall wait at their assigned bus stop off the traveled roadway and shall remain there until the driver has stopped the bus and opened the entrance door.
5. For safety reasons, when pupils are required to cross the roadway entering the school bus or leaving the school bus, these roadway crossings shall be made in front of the bus. The pupil shall cross the roadway a distance of approximately ten (10) feet in front of the bus in order that they may be seen by the bus driver and cross only on the driver's signal.
6. When pupils enter the bus, they shall proceed promptly to their assigned seats.
7. Pupils shall remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop before leaving their seats to get off the bus.

8. For safety reasons, pupils shall not extend arms, legs, or heads out of the bus windows while the bus is in motion.
9. Pupils shall not change from one seat to another while the bus is in motion unless given permission by the driver to do so. Drivers will assign seats at their discretion unless specifically noted in a student's IEP.
10. Pupils shall not create noise on the bus to the extent that it might interfere with the driver's ability to hear the signals of emergency vehicles or an approaching train.
11. Students riding buses will conduct themselves in a manner that will not endanger the lives of students through distraction of the driver's attention or failure to comply with the driver's instructions. These and similar things are evidence of failure of a student to conduct himself/herself in a proper manner on the bus: fighting; scuffling; loud talking; throwing items into, inside, or out of the bus; making remarks to people on the road or street; failure to follow the driver's instructions; failure to share seats; damaging parts of the bus; smoking; firearms and explosives; distractions; large items; and like conduct.
12. The following activities are prohibited at all times:
 - a. improper behavior to include: insubordination, disobedience, vulgarity, foul language, fighting, pushing, harassment and bullying, and similar offensive acts
 - b. possession or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, tobacco, etc.
 - c. selling or exchanging items or substances
 - d. possessing knives, sharp objects, or weapons, ceremonial weapons, laser lights
 - e. bringing animals, glass containers, or water guns, helium balloons
 - f. throwing objects or articles in or from the bus
 - g. tampering with mechanical equipment, accessories, or controls of the bus
 - h. placing musical instruments or other articles at the door of the bus
 - i. obstructing the aisles in any manner
 - j. occupying more space in a seat than required, all items which pupils bring on a bus must be held by the student and will not be placed on seats or in the aisle
 - k.. littering the bus , spitting on bus, eating or drinking on the bus
 - l.. opening or closing windows without the permission of the driver
 - m.. talking or noise at railroad crossings
 - n. Use of cameras or cell phones on the bus (talking, recording or taking pictures).
 - o. Loud musical devices (radios, etc.) which may distract driver
13. **The Board requires the parent or guardian of any student who damages or destroys any part of the bus beyond normal usage to reimburse the Board for the amount of damages.**
14. In route to a pupil's school of attendance, if a pupil must get off the bus and wait and/or transfer to another bus, that pupil must remain on the school's campus at the designated area until the pupil leaves on the designated bus.

15. Any pupil who persists in violating any part of these rules or regulations shall be reported to the principal of the school, or the Transportation Director which he/she attends for disciplinary action. After due warning has been given, the principal or Transportation Director shall withdraw the privilege of riding the school bus for a specified period. Once the privilege of riding a school bus has been withdrawn a second time, riding privileges can only be restored after the pupil has presented evidence that his behavior will improve. The permission must be granted by the school principal.

Bus Disciplinary Actions

Discipline for bus infractions may include: warnings, conferences, loss of privileges, written assignments, probation, office detention, behavioral contracts, seat re-assignments, bus suspension, out-of-school suspension, expelled from bus, law contact, parent conferences, etc.

*The Transportation Director and Principal will collaborate on each student referral with the principals making each final determination for bus disciplinary action.