

BUS CONDUCT

These rules are in addition to the other rules on student conduct in this handbook.

All schools, grades K-12, are to be consistent with bus discipline.

Bus transportation is offered as a convenience to our students and their families. Only students and school employees are allowed to ride the bus without special permission of the Principal or Director of Transportation. Bus-riding is a school activity, and students are subject to all school rules of behavior while waiting on, riding, or leaving the buses.

Parents should reinforce our efforts to provide safe transportation by supervising their students as much as possible before and after the bus arrives at the bus stop. However, while students are under the supervision of the bus driver, parents may not interfere with the driver's duties. Drivers shall correct misconduct on the bus and report it to school principals and police, when appropriate. Bus misconduct by breaking any law, any school rule, or any of the rules listed below may result in temporary or permanent loss of bus-riding privileges.

Efforts will be made to pick up and drop off students a reasonable distance from their residences and accommodate students with handicaps; however, the director of transportation is under no obligation to establish bus stops at locations specified by students or parents. In addition to all the rules that apply to school activities, the following special rules also apply to students on buses:

Before the Bus Arrives

1. Arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus is due. Dress appropriately for the weather. You may have to wait in the rain or cold.
2. Wait for the bus in a safe place; stand ten (10) feet back from the roadway and wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching.
3. Form a single line and enter the bus in an orderly manor (no pushing or shoving).
4. When entering or exiting the bus, always use the handrail.
5. Once you have entered the bus, find a seat quickly.
6. Carry belongings in a backpack or book bag and if something fall under or around the bus, tell the driver. NEVER TRY TO PICK IT UP YOURSELF!

While on the Bus

1. All rules for the classroom apply to the bus. No loud talking or yelling permitted.
2. Always cooperate with the bus driver and other school officials.

3. Remain seated and face forward at all times; do not change seats, and keep feet out of the aisle. Bus seats are designed to protect you in an accident and can only do so if you are sitting properly.
4. Do not be destructive. Throwing objects on or off the bus is strictly prohibited. Students and their parents may be held responsible for damage to the bus or property outside the bus. Vandalism, including writing on seats, will not be tolerated.
5. Harmful items, such as drugs, tobacco, alcohol, knives, weapons, etc. ... are .
. strictly prohibited
6. Be courteous to your bus driver and fellow passengers. Use no profane language or gestures.
7. Help keep the bus clean.
8. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus at all times.
9. No food or beverages, except in lunches, are permitted. Lunches should be kept inside a lunch box or a backpack or book bag.
10. Only those items that can safely be held in your lap or stored under the seat will be permitted on the bus.
11. Remain absolutely quiet when the bus is approaching and stopped at railroad crossings.
12. Sports Equipment must be in a bag.

When Leaving the Bus

1. Exit the bus in an orderly manner (no pushing or shoving).
2. If you must cross the street, walk away from the bus and forward about *twelve* (12) feet until you can see the driver's face. Cross only after the driver motions for you to cross, and check traffic as you cross the street.
3. If something falls under or near the bus, tell the driver. NEVER PICK IT UP YOURSELF!
4. Never cross behind the bus.
5. Cross *over* about six (6) feet away from the side of the bus and stay away from the wheels. Do not attempt to grab the bus or run after it.
6. Never attempt to crawl under the bus for any reason.
7. Go directly home after leaving the bus.

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency on the school bus, students must always cooperate with the bus driver. Students should remember to remain calm and be quiet so they can hear

the driver's instructions. This is especially critical if it becomes necessary to evacuate the bus due to an immediate hazardous condition.

Riding a Different Bus

The primary purpose of Watson Chapel Public Schools Transportation Department is transporting eligible students to and from home. Therefore, students are expected to ride their assigned bus each day to and from school and get on and off at their assigned bus stop.

Students who wish to ride a bus other than their assigned bus should provide their own transportation. This means parents are responsible for providing this type of transportation.

In special circumstances, it may be possible for a student to obtain a bus pass to ride a different bus, however, passes will only be issued on a space available basis and for one time only. Passes for this type of transportation **MUST** be obtained from the school principal. Notes to the Bus Driver are not acceptable in lieu of passes. Passes will not be issued for more than one day at a time. A written request must be submitted to the principal by the parent before a bus pass will be considered.

Bus Discipline

Disciplinary offenses that are determined to be severe (fighting, cursing, bullying, harassing, obscene gestures, throwing objects, vandalism - student must pay for damages, smoking, possession of drugs, and failure to properly identify self) by the school district administration will lead to immediate loss of bus-riding privileges. An incident on a bus deemed severe may also result in a student being suspended from school. For less than severe offenses, the following consequences will result from violations of the rules:

1 st Report	Warning and conference with student
2 nd Report	Probation and conference with the student
3 rd Report	Five (5) day suspension from the bus
4 th Report	Warning and continued probation
5 th Report	Ten (10) day suspension from all a.m. and p.m. buses
6 th Report	Ten (10) day suspension from all a.m. and p.m. buses
7 th Report	Ten (10) day suspension from all a.m. and p.m. buses

8th Report Ten (10) day suspension from all a.m. and p.m. buses with a warning to student and parent that any further offense will result in revocation of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.

9th Report Loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year

Same Day Report an offense committed on the same day after a suspension notice has been issued will result in an additional five (5) days of bus suspension.

NOTE: Any student suspended from the bus who rides in violation of his/her suspension will have the suspension days doubled.

Two copies of each bus suspension report will be sent home for parent notification. The original (white) copy is to be signed by the parent and returned to the school office. The other copy is to be kept by the parent. Reasonable attempts will be made to contact the parent by phone on the day of suspension. A student may ride the bus home on the day a suspension is issued. Once bus privileges are suspended or revoked by the school district, it becomes the parent's responsibility to deliver and pick up students on time.