

Shelby County Board of Education

6050

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STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

I. PURPOSE

To ensure a safe environment for students transported to and from school by school buses.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to students who are permitted to ride school buses.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

In order to maintain conditions suitable for learning, no person shall enter onto a school bus except students assigned to that bus and authorized school/District personnel, unless otherwise provided by law, Board policy, and/or contract.

Parents of students are responsible for their child's supervision until the child boards the bus in the morning and after the child leaves the bus at the end of the school day. Once a student boards the bus - and only at that time - does he or she become the responsibility of the school system. Such responsibility shall end when the student is delivered to the regular bus stop at the close of the school day.

In view of the fact that a bus is an extension of the classroom, the Board shall require students to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior.

Students are under the supervision of the bus driver while on his/her bus, and all reasonable directions given by the bus driver shall be followed.

The principal of the student transported shall be informed by the bus driver of any serious discipline problem and may be called upon to assist if necessary. Except as provided by law, a student may be denied the privilege of riding the bus if the principal/department responsible for student transportation determines that the student's behavior is such as to cause disruption on the bus, or if a student disobeys local rules and regulations pertaining to student transportation. Required suspension of ridership privileges are in addition to appropriate disciplinary measures that may be taken by the principal according to the Student Code of Conduct. Suspension of ridership privileges may be the only disciplinary action taken when deemed appropriate for the level of the offense. In the event a suspension from school is issued for a bus conduct offense, the ridership privilege suspension is to begin the student's first day back to school.

The suspension of a student from riding the school bus shall follow the same procedures as for any other school suspension, except when state and/or federal provisions apply for students receiving special education services. In such cases, the District shall comply with applicable state and/or federal laws/regulations.

By law, employees who interact with students in the course of their assigned duties, may relocate a student from the student's present location to another location in emergency situations. Such employees may also intervene in a physical altercation between two (2) or more students, or between a student and a District employee. Reasonable force may be used to physically relocate or intervene in such conflicts if a student is unwilling to cooperate (see [6057 Physical Relocation of Students](#)).

Students must ride their designated bus determined by the student's address of record. Additionally, students are not permitted to exit at a point other than the student's regular bus stop, unless they have been granted a waiver pursuant to [Student Transportation Services policy \(#3004\)](#).

Use of Video Cameras

Video cameras may be used to monitor student behavior on school vehicles transporting students to and from school or extracurricular activities.

The District shall keep all video recording of students confidential and shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to video recordings when such recordings are considered as part of the student's education and behavioral record as determined by the District and in accordance with the law. Video recordings may only be accessed by the parent of the student involved, employees of the school involved who have a legitimate educational interest in the recording, and SCS Security. The recording may be shared with the appropriate law enforcement agency if the principal

has requested assistance. Video surveillance shall be used only to promote the order, safety and security of students, staff, and property.

The Superintendent is directed to develop procedures governing the use of video cameras in accordance with the provisions of the law and established Board policies. Students in violation of bus conduct rules shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with established Board policy and regulations governing student conduct and discipline.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Students are responsible for abiding by the rules for riding the school bus.
- B. School bus drivers are responsible for fostering a safe school bus environment, maintaining appropriate behavior while driving, and meeting the requirements for school bus drivers as outlined in state law and/or by contract.
- C. Principals and teachers are responsible for providing school bus rules to parents and students.
- D. Principals and/or the department responsible for student transportation are responsible for responding to complaints about student behavior by bus drivers or other students.
- E. The department responsible for student transportation is responsible for implementing this policy.
- F. The department responsible for attendance and discipline is responsible for monitoring and reviewing behavioral consequences issued to students, including bus suspensions, and for counseling with school administrators when consequences issued to students are not in compliance with SCS policy and/or state or federal law/regulations.
- G. The department responsible for district-wide special education services is charged with making information available about bus suspension of students receiving special education services.
- H. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed.

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-6-2008
2. TRR/MS 0520-1-5-.01
3. TCA 49-6-2118
4. TCA 49-6-4008
5. TCA 39-11-603; 609-10; 612-614; 621-622

Cross References:

1. [3004 Student Transportation Services](#)
2. [6022 Student Conduct](#)
3. [6057 Physical Relocation of Students](#)