

**STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES**

The driver of the school bus shall be responsible for the safety of the students on his/her bus, both during the ride and while students are entering or leaving the bus. Therefore, it is the bus driver's duty to enforce the safety rules, regulations and report any student who disobeys the established rules of conduct.

Safety is the primary concern of the Peyton School District Transportation Department. When an incident occurs and distracts a driver's attention from the road, the safety of the driver and each student is jeopardized. Rules of conduct for students in transit minimize the risk of harm or injury to them and their driver.

The Transportation Director is authorized to suspend the riding privileges of any student who violates the rules of conduct. The period of suspension varies with the nature of the infraction, but ranges from 2 days to one year. Parents will be notified before the suspension starts. Procedures are available to both students and their parents to appeal suspension of bus riding privileges, but the process must begin within 5 school days of the suspension notification.

*Transportation to school is not a legal responsibility of the school district. It is, rather, furnished to eligible students at the expense of ALL the taxpayers in the district and it is expected that those who benefit from it will appreciate the privilege.*

Violation of school transportation rules by any student could be sufficient cause for a student to be deprived of the privilege of being transported.

In order to ensure that students riding Peyton School Buses are provided with the safest possible environment, video cameras may be used on the buses and the following rules will serve as a basis for student conduct on the bus.

**RULES & PROCEDURES**

1. Students should be at their assigned bus stops five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. All scheduled stops are set by Master Clock (nuclear time) 567-6742.
2. Stay off the road! Respect other's property! Do not trespass or play in the yards near the bus stop! If any property damage occurs, local police will be called. The bus stop may be moved farther away or omitted.
3. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the doors open before attempting to enter or exit the bus, staying a proper distance from the bus.
4. When crossing the street, wait for signal from driver, then walk in front of the bus.
5. Obey and cooperate with the driver's instructions. Bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
6. Do not eat or drink on the bus. Keep your bus clean and safe.
7. Observe same conduct as in the classroom.
8. Permission slips to ride a different bus or use a different stop must be obtained from the school office and will be signed by the Principal or his/her designee.

**FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

Sponsors are required to be familiar with the Transportation Rules and Regulations. Coaches/sponsors and bus drivers are considered partners in the athletics/activity process. When behavior issues arise on a field trip, it is expected that drivers and coaches/sponsors will work together to resolve them. Administrative assistance will be available if needed.

1. Sponsors/Monitors have the responsibility for maintaining discipline on the bus.
2. If needed, only sponsors are permitted movement on the bus while in motion.
3. Bus drivers may grant permission for students to eat or drink on the bus during extra curricular trips.

**INFRACTIONS**

**Infractions 1 – 12 may bring a 2 to 4 day suspension from riding the bus.**

1. Insubordinate or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated on a bus.
- \*2 Each student is responsible for all damage caused by her/him to the seat which she/he sits in. **DAMAGE TO THE BUS MUST BE PAID FOR BY THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE PRIOR TO RETURNING TO THE BUS.**
3. Sharp instruments, such as compasses, pencils, pens, etc, shall be carried in a safe container (i.e., book bag).
4. CDE transportation regulations require students to maintain silence when approaching railroad crossings.
5. Students are expected to identify themselves when requested by any employee in the Peyton School District.
6. Students are not permitted to stand or to leave their seats while the bus is en route. If vehicle is equipped with seat belts, they must be worn properly.
7. Students are to keep hands, feet, and head inside the bus at all times. Students must keep their hands and feet off other students at all times. Property of other students is to be left alone.
8. Students will refrain from horseplay, harassing and bullying activities at all times. No obscene gestures and no gang signs.
9. Nothing is to be thrown from the bus windows. Students shall keep the bus clean and free of debris.
10. The aisles are to be kept free of backpacks, books, coats, musical instruments and other items.
11. Unless prior permission is given, items **NOT** allowed on the bus include, but are not limited to: balloons, animals, insects (dead or alive), skateboards, scooters, glass items, any item that is a health or safety hazard, or any item that will not fit on a student's lap.
12. Students will refrain from unbecoming conduct, using inappropriate language, abusing the driver or other pupils.

**Infractions 13-15 may bring an 8 day to 1 year suspension from riding the bus.**

- \*13. Fighting or other physical abuse is prohibited. This includes at the bus stop before and after school.
- \*14. Weapons and/or explosives are not permitted.
- \*15. Use or display of any tobacco products, or possession/use of any illegal drugs, including alcohol, is prohibited.

\*Depending on the severity, disciplinary action for these infractions may also include a school suspension determined by the **school administration. Infractions may lead to expulsion from the school district.** Appropriate law enforcement agencies will be notified when necessary.

For each infraction the parent/guardian shall be notified of the occurrence and the consequences. A written referral will be forwarded to the proper building administrator citing the infraction, as well as the action taken.

**Consequences**

- 1<sup>st</sup> infraction* — Verbal warning - Driver will contact parent/guardian and will document the particulars of the incident in a logbook.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction* — Written warning - Driver will contact parent/guardian. Copy of notice sent to parent.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> infraction* — Suspension- Transportation Director or School administrator will contact parent/guardian. Suspension will be according to the range for that infraction. Copy of notice sent to parent and to school.
- 4<sup>th</sup> infraction* – Suspension - Transportation Director or School administrator will contact parent/guardian. Suspension will be 45 days or remainder of semester, whichever is greater. Copy of notice sent to parent and to school.
- 5<sup>th</sup> infraction* – Suspension - Transportation Director or School administrator will contact parent/guardian. Suspension will be 90 days or remainder of school year, determined by the transportation Director. Copy of notice sent to parent and to school.

**NOTE:** Immediate loss of transportation privileges may occur depending on the severity of the violation. (May include but is not limited to: weapons on the bus, drugs, physical violence, vandalism, actions that may adversely impact the safety of others, etc.)

Students will not normally be suspended from transportation privileges until the day following the infraction and parent notification.

A student who has been suspended from riding the bus may be suspended from riding all District buses.

**Any questions, comments or concerns, please contact our Transportation Department at 749-0074.**

**ADOPTED: 11/03**

**REVISED: 7/08, 9/16**