

## STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

While the law requires the school district to furnish transportation, it does not relieve parents of students from being accountable for their conduct boarding the bus in the morning, traveling on the bus, and leaving the bus at the end of the school day.

The principals, bus drivers, and parents should share the responsibility for explaining to the students that riding a school bus is a privilege, that standards for behavior on buses are similar to those for classrooms, and that they can expect verifiable complaints of misbehavior to lead to disciplinary action including temporary suspension from buses. The district engages in positive behavior interventions and strategies in an effort to help prevent infractions or minimize recurring infractions. Nevertheless, the board and district shall have the authority to discipline students for misconduct on school property and on the road to and from school, or at any school related activity or event.

The school bus, including the bus stop area, is an extension of the classroom and school. All District and school rules and regulations that pertain to student conduct in the school are applicable to student conduct on the bus and at the bus stop. Rules and regulations governing the conduct of students who use school district transportation may be prepared and distributed at the direction of the superintendent. Therefore, the District Code of Student Conduct is applicable to incidents occurring on the school bus and at the bus stop area.

In cases in which a student does not properly conduct himself or herself on a bus, the bus driver upon returning to the school must bring such instances to the attention of the building principal. If necessary, the driver may stop the bus and telephone the principal for help. An adequate supply of forms designed to report student misconduct will be provided to each bus driver. Only a school official may remove or direct the removal of a student from the school bus.

Students who are disruptive and misbehaving on the bus are subject to being suspended from bus transportation. Disruptive and misbehaving students on the bus include, but are not limited to, those students who assault, fight, scuffle, harass, taunt, threaten, or bully other students, spit, trip others, smoke, throw objects out the window, throw objects at the bus driver or at each other, refuse to remain seated, disobey the instructions of the bus driver, use profane or vulgar language or gestures towards other students or the bus driver, or otherwise cause a disturbance on the bus such that it interferes with the driver's ability to safely and efficiently operate the bus. The principal, following regular disciplinary interventions and procedures, may suspend disruptive, misbehaving students from riding school buses for a maximum of five days. However, a bus suspension does not necessarily imply suspension from classes during that period. After two suspensions, and following regular disciplinary interventions and procedures, the student may be suspended from school buses for the rest of

the school year or a portion thereof. A student's riding privilege will not be suspended until parents are notified of the problem. When a student has been suspended from riding a school bus, it is the responsibility of the parent to see that the student gets to and from school safely.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi  
LEGAL REF.: § 37-7-301, 37-9-71; Miss. Code Ann.

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