

## Student Code of Conduct for School Bus Transportation

The following is not intended as an exhaustive description of all infractions of the Student Code of Bus Conduct. Consequences for infractions that are not specifically referenced below will be assigned at the discretion of school and transportation administration.

### Level I Offenses (1 Demerit Point)

Level I acts include repeated infractions of violating school bus safety policies that prevent or distract the driver from providing a safe experience on the school bus. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Placing feet in main aisle
- 2) Turning around in seat
- 3) Not sitting in assigned seat
- 4) Eating or Drinking on the bus
- 5) Not being present at the designated bus stop at the arrival time causing the bus to extend the stop
- 6) Excessive noise
- 7) Playing music without the use of head phones
- 8) Not adhering to WFISD dress code while on the bus

### Level II Offenses (3 Demerit Points)

When a student's behavior does not change as a result of action taken on Level I, and the student is formally being addressed by the driver or monitor for a second time with a discipline report, the student is moved to a level II

### Level III Offenses (5 Demerit Points)

Level III acts of misconduct include those violations that are more serious than those in Level I and Level II. The acts can lead to possible injuries, damage to school property, or mental distress of other students. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Using profanity or vulgar language or making obscene gestures, racial slurs
- 2) Possessing or using matches or a lighter
- 3) Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or that can create a distraction for the bus driver
- 4) Students not remaining quiet at a railroad crossing as required by law
- 5) Placing hands or head out of bus windows
- 6) Horseplay between two students that creates a disturbance requiring the driver to intervene either verbally or by pulling the bus over
- 7) Walking in aisle or changing seats while bus is in motion

- 8) Failure to follow reasonable directions of the bus driver or monitor
- 9) Exiting at a bus stop and coming into contact with any outside part of the bus
- 10) Exiting at a bus stop and crossing the street behind the bus instead of in front of the bus

#### Level IV Offenses (10 Demerit Points)

Level IV offenses include those acts that seriously disrupt the transportation process, endanger or seriously affect other students, and perhaps violate the law. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Any repeated Level III offense
- 2) Vandalism of the school bus or another student's property
- 3) Failure to provide correct identification to the school bus driver or monitor
- 4) Opening emergency window or door
- 5) Displaying any symbol of gang affiliation to include dress, graffiti, and behavior
- 6) Making false reports about another student regarding violation of any level of offense

#### Level V Offenses (20 Demerit Points)

Level V offenses include those actions that most severely disrupt the transportation process, endanger or seriously affect other students, and in most cases are violations of the law. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Fighting on or near the school bus
- 2) Threats to the driver, monitor, students, or citizens in the nearby area
- 3) Verbal or physical bullying of another student, driver, or monitor
- 4) Sexual Harassment, either physical and verbal
- 5) Possession of or distribution of tobacco or alcohol
- 6) Possession of or distribution of a controlled substance
- 7) Possession of any type of weapon including but not limited to any type of guns or knives, box blades, pepper spray, or any other object that could be used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person
- 8) Theft of items belonging to students, drivers, monitors, or property of the bus itself

#### Discipline Procedures

With the understanding that riding a school bus is a privilege and that the Safety of all students is the primary responsibility of those who oversee the school buses, the Transportation Department will use the following table to determine disciplinary consequences for those students who disobey school bus rules. A numerical value (demerit) will be placed on each level of offense. In most instances, BOTH the numerical value of a particular offense and the

combined total of demerits that a student has accumulated throughout the school year will determine a student's disciplinary consequence.

See the following table and example of the minimum possible consequences.

| Accumulated Demerits | Minimum Consequence                       |
|----------------------|---|
| 3-5                  | 3 day suspension from busing              |
| 6-10                 | 5 day suspension from busing              |
| 11-15                | 10 day suspension from busing             |
| 16-20                | 15 day suspension from busing             |
| 21-30                | 20 day suspension from busing             |
| 31-50                | 30 day suspension from busing             |
| 50+                  | Removal from busing for remainder of year |

#### Additional Notes

Any suspensions before a break will result in a carry-over of the suspension days to the next period school is in session.

For all written discipline reports, attempts will be made to contact a parent by phone and the student will be given a copy of the report for parental review. If a parent is unable to be reached, the student will be required to return the discipline report signed by a parent before being allowed to resume riding the bus.

Any suspension of 15 days or more will result in a mandatory parent/student meeting at the bus barn before the student can resume riding the bus.