

Guidelines and Rules for Students Riding the Bus

The following guidelines and rules are established to promote the safety and well-being of students using Riverview School District vehicles. These guidelines and rules will be signed by each student rider and parent on an annual basis. All student rules of conduct (P3100-2) shall apply at bus stops and adjacent properties before loading and after unloading the bus.

A. Prior to Loading

1. Be at the designated bus stop at or before the scheduled time. The bus will not wait for tardy students; it has a schedule to keep.
2. When it is necessary to walk along the roadway, walk on the left facing traffic. If there is a shoulder or sidewalk, use it.
3. When crossing the roadway, walk, do not run. Before stepping into the oncoming traffic lane, check in both directions. If the bus is present, cross at least 12 feet IN FRONT of the bus, not behind.
4. While waiting for the bus, stay off the traveled portion of the roadway. Stand on the sidewalk if there is one. Respect the property of homeowners in the area. Do not run beside the bus when it is moving.
5. When loading, wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before moving toward it. Do not push or crowd.
6. Upon entering the bus, go directly to a seat, sit down and remain seated.
7. If you miss the bus, return home. Make alternative arrangements for getting to school with your parent or guardian.

B. While on the Bus

1. Passengers in school buses equipped with seat belts shall be required to wear them properly adjusted whenever the school bus is in motion, as required by law.
2. Obey the directions of the driver promptly and other personnel in authority on the bus.

3. Be seated while the bus is in motion, facing forward with feet out of the aisle. Do not sit in the stepwell or driver's seat.
4. Be respectful of others and do not harass, intimidate, or bully the driver or any student on the bus. Harassment, intimidation or bullying means any intentionally written message or image – including those that are electronically transmitted – verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, mental or physical disability or other distinguishing characteristics. See Policy Procedure P-6580-1 for further information.
5. Conduct yourself in a manner that does not compromise the safety of other riders on the school bus. While the bus is moving, do not talk to or distract the driver except for important matters or emergencies.
6. Be quiet while the bus is approaching and crossing railroad tracks so the driver can listen for approaching trains.
7. Ride only your regularly assigned bus and leave the bus at your regular stop. Give written permission of your parent/guardian and principal/designee to the bus driver to ride another bus or get off at a different stop.
8. Report bus damage to the driver. If a student damages a school bus, the student's parent or guardian will be held responsible for the damage.
9. Obtain driver permission before opening a window. Keep hands, head, legs, etc. inside the bus at all times. Do not throw or pass objects through open windows.
10. Bringing knives, sharp objects, firearms, or live animals, except Service Animals, ARE PROHIBITED.
11. Use of tobacco, vaping, profane language, alcoholic beverages, lighters, matches, or aerosol cans ARE PROHIBITED.
12. Deposit paper, food containers and other unwanted objects in the trash container provided.

13. Keep the aisle and front stepwell clear of books, lunches, coats, packages, and musical instruments. When departing, remove all items which were brought on the bus.
14. Use the fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and emergency door only in an emergency and with the permission of the driver or other authorized person.
15. Standing up on the bus is **PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES**. Students are to wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before rising. Leave the bus in an orderly manner with students in the front unloading first.
16. The bus driver has the right to reassign a student to another seat if they are a distraction or causing a disturbance on the bus.
17. Substitute bus drivers are in a different bus every day, with a new set of students, and on different roads. Because of this, student discipline will be considered more severe, due to distracting a substitute bus driver.

C. After Leaving the Bus

1. When it is necessary to cross the road after unloading, cross at least 10 feet **IN FRONT** of the bus. Before stepping into the lane used by oncoming traffic, look both ways to be sure no traffic is approaching from either direction. Glance at the driver, who will signal if it is not safe to cross. Walk, do not run, when crossing the highway.
2. Do not loiter around the bus or run beside it when it is moving.
3. Do not throw balls, rocks, or objects of any kind in the area of a school bus stop.
4. Do not engage in conduct prohibited by school rules.
5. If there is a shoulder or sidewalk, use it. When it is necessary to walk along the roadway, walk on the left facing traffic.
6. After leaving the bus, go directly home.

Procedures Following Infractions

When a student misbehaves on the school bus, the bus driver may call the student's parents/guardian and/or complete a Student Misconduct Notice. A copy of the notice is also sent to the student's school principal/designee. The Bus Transportation Liaison will investigate the incident and determine appropriate discipline action. Suspension off the bus or other disciplinary action will be determined by the principal/designee and the Bus Transportation Liaison.

Policy References: P3100-2 Student Responsibilities and Rules of Student
Conduct
6605 Student Safety Riding Buses
P6580-1 Student Procedures, Prohibition of Harassment,
Intimidations, and Bullying

Legal References: WAC 392-145-015 General Operating Rules
392-145-035 Rules for students riding school buses

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