

School Bus Code of Conduct

We believe that everyone has a right to a safe and caring environment when riding the school bus. Students, parents and bus operators share in these responsibilities.

Students are expected to:

- Be at the bus stop 3–5 minutes before scheduled pickup time and be appropriately dressed for weather conditions
- Go directly to their assigned seat, sit facing forward with their back and bottom touching the seat. Backpacks are to be held on their lap
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion
- Keep arms, hands, or head from extending out the window
- Refrain from eating or drinking on school buses
- Keep the bus clean and take all garbage with them off of the bus
- Avoid loud noise or any behavior that may be distracting to the Bus Driver
- Use electronic devices responsibly including not taking picture, video, or audio recordings
- Keep the aisle of the bus clear at all times. No article may block or extend into the aisle or emergency exits
- Follow the direction of the Bus Driver at all times
- Check with the Bus Driver before taking sports equipment or band equipment on the bus.

Articles NOT permitted on the bus: Skis, Snowboards, Skateboards, Animals, Firearms, Explosives, Combustible materials, or anything of a dangerous nature that might endanger the lives or safety of others.

Bus Operator is expected to:

- Provide a positive and safe environment that supports students
- Work with schools and Transportation Services to provide consistent behavior expectations for students
- Ensure they demonstrate safe driving behavior
- Manage student behavior and report any serious violation of the rules to the Principal and Director of Transportation Services.

Consequences for Inappropriate Conduct

Riding the school bus is a privilege. All normal school rules apply when riding and students are expected to follow the direction of the driver. Repeated or significant improper behavior on the bus will be dealt with by school administration and may result in suspension of riding privileges. To enhance the safe transportation of students, buses are equipped with video surveillance equipment.

Disciplinary steps may be progressive in nature and include one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning(s)
- Written warning (Student Conduct Form)
- One (1) to five (5) day suspension from bus privileges
- Recommendation for expulsion from GYPSD transportation

The following behavior may result in a suspension or recommendation for expulsion from GYPSD transportation:

- Open opposition to authority of bus operator and/or individuals employed by GYPSD;
- Engaging in, but not limited to, improper, profane, or abusive language and gestures, fighting, and intimidation;
- Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol and/or controlled substance paraphernalia;
- Engaging in willful destruction of property or acts of vandalism;
- Acts of vandalism when reparation charges have been assessed but not repaid;
- Engaging in any dangerous or unsafe behavior;
- Riding the bus for any purpose while on suspension from school or the bus.

****Notwithstanding the above, the seriousness of the misbehavior may warrant immediate suspension or referral to the Board of Trustees on the first offense.**