

OAK HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 201
STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Any misconduct by a student which, in the opinion of the school bus driver or bus supervisor, is detrimental to the safe operation of the school bus, shall be sufficient cause for the principal to suspend transportation privileges.

Rules of conduct for students riding school buses:

1. Students shall obey the school bus driver and any instructional assistant assigned to the school bus by the district. The school bus driver is in full charge of the bus and passengers and shall be obeyed. When transporting classes or teams, the teacher or coach shall be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students. Students shall obey the school bus driver and the teacher, coach, or other staff member.
2. Students shall ride only on their assigned school bus unless written permission to do otherwise has been received by school officials.
3. Students shall not be permitted to leave the school bus except at their regular stop unless written permission to do otherwise is received by school officials, with the exception of high school students (grades 9 through 12).
4. Students who are assigned seats shall use only that seat unless permission to change is authorized by the school bus driver.
5. Students shall observe rules of classroom conduct while riding school buses. Noise shall be kept down to avoid distracting the school bus driver. (Unnecessary conversation with the driver is prohibited.) Students shall refrain from the use of obscene language or gestures.
6. Students shall not smoke or ignite lighters or matches on school buses.
7. Students shall not eat on school buses except when specially authorized and supervised by an accompanying teacher, coach, or other staff member. School buses shall be kept clean.
8. Students shall not open school bus windows without the school bus driver's permission.
9. Students shall not extend any part of their body out of school bus windows at any time.
10. Students shall not possess laser devices when riding a school bus. Use of a laser device while riding a school bus will warrant suspension of bus privileges. Students shall not carry or have in their possession items that can cause injury to passengers on the school bus. Such items include, but are not limited to, sticks, breakable containers, weapons or firearms, straps or pins protruding from clothing, and large, bulky items which cannot be held or placed between the knees. Books and personal belongings shall be kept out of the aisles. Animals (except service animals) shall **not** be transported on school buses.
11. Students must remain seated and facing forward while the bus is in motion.
12. Never cross behind the bus and always watch for the driver to signal in case of emergency

When waiting for a school bus or going to and from a school bus stop, students are responsible for conducting themselves according to the social and legal standards that apply to adults in public. That is, they must not abuse or cause damage to private or public property; they must not use obscene language or gestures; they must not engage in criminal activity. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in formal complaints by citizens that may be forwarded to principals for possible corrective action.

Students are expected to be at the bus stop five minutes prior to the bus arrival time and remain off the road while waiting for the bus.

Students provided with transportation are responsible for complying with the district's rules of conduct for students riding school buses. A student's failure to adhere to these rules or abusive behavior towards the public, the school bus driver, fellow passengers, or the vehicles constitutes justification for initiating corrective action.

Abusive behavior on the part of a student riding a school bus may result in a written report when, in the opinion of the school bus driver or bus supervisor, there has been an infraction of the rules applicable to student conduct. The written report is the primary means by which a school bus driver or bus supervisor communicates a student's conduct to the school and to the transportation department. This report, in most cases, reflects an infraction of rules that are repeated by the student after his or her having received previous oral warnings from the school bus driver or bus supervisor.

The principal, upon receiving the report, shall investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident and take action according to the procedures set forth in the district's policies pertaining to corrective action and punishment.

When investigating the incident, the primary concern must be the safe transport of students. Corrective action, if necessary, should be consistent throughout the district as follows:

1. **WARNING:** When a student's misconduct is of a minor nature which does not jeopardize the safety or welfare of other students or the operation of the school bus.
2. **SUSPENSION:** When a student's misconduct is deemed to jeopardize the safety of school bus passengers or the operation of the school bus or when repeated warning notices fail to correct abusive behavior or when a student incurs damage to the school bus.

It is an established procedure of the Oak Harbor School District to utilize video cameras for the purpose of monitoring student behavior on school buses.