

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 is sufficient cause for the principal to suspend transportation privileges.

The Oak Harbor School District utilizes video cameras for the purpose of monitoring student behavior on school buses.

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 may result in corrective action.

Rules of conduct for students riding school buses:

1. Students must 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 must be obeyed. When transporting classes or teams, the teacher or coach is primarily responsible for the behavior of the students. Students must obey the school bus driver, the teacher, coach, or other staff member.
2. Students may ride only on their assigned school bus unless written permission to do otherwise has been received by school officials.
3. Students are not 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 can use only that seat unless permission to change is authorized by the school bus driver.
5. Students must observe rules of classroom conduct while riding school buses. Noise must be kept down to avoid distracting the school bus driver. (Unnecessary conversation with the driver is prohibited.) Students must refrain from the use of obscene language or gestures.
6. Students may not smoke or ignite lighters or matches on school buses.
7. Students may not eat on school buses except when specifically authorized and supervised by an accompanying teacher, coach, or other staff member. School buses must be kept clean.
8. Students may not open school bus windows without the school bus driver's permission.
9. Students may not extend any part of their body out of school bus windows at any time.
10. Students may not throw objects out the school bus windows at any time.
11. Students may 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 may 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, skateboards, straps or pins protruding from clothing, and large, bulky items which cannot be held or placed between the knees. Books and personal belongings must be kept out of the aisles. Animals (except service animals) cannot be transported on school buses.

12. Students must remain seated and facing forward while the bus is in motion.
13. Students must not cross behind the bus and must watch for the driver to signal in case of emergency
14. Students that use electronic devices (i.e. I-POD, MP3 players) will keep the volume down and one ear piece out while riding our buses so that students are able to hear the bus driver in case of an emergency.
15. Students defacing or damaging our school buses will be held accountable and make restitution as appropriate. This includes damaging seat cushions, seat covers and graffiti on side panels, seat covers and windows.

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. They must not abuse or cause damage to private or public property; must not use obscene language or gestures; and must not engage in criminal activity.

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.

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, will 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.