

TERRELL COUNTY BOARD POLICY
Bus Conduct

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Rescinds Code: EBCD/JCDAD
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Students are under the supervision of the bus driver while riding the bus. They are expected to observe all rules and regulations with regard to conduct and behavior and to assist the driver in maintaining the safety and health of all riders at all times. A student whose misconduct justifies it may be denied the privilege for whatever length of time is recommended by the principal and approved by the Superintendent, subject to appeal to the Board of Education.

Students who have been denied transportation privileges are not relieved of their legal obligation to be in regular attendance in the school assigned.

Rules and Regulations for Passengers of Terrell County School Buses

1. Drivers may assign seats on school buses. All seating arrangements are made at the discretion of the bus driver and the Director of Transportation. Refusal to use assigned seats is a disciplinary infraction.
2. Failure by a student to comply with reasonable directions or commands of a bus driver, a school teacher, a school administrator or other authorized personnel will subject said student to severe disciplinary action.
3. Students shall not board nor leave the bus at any place other than their regular site unless so authorized in writing by a parent, guardian or proper school authority.
4. Bus passengers shall not possess or have immediate access to any article considered to be a weapon capable of inflicting bodily harm to another person.
5. No student shall in any manner use violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance or any other conduct to intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful school bus function or mission.
6. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury to any person or persons on a school bus. Violation of this rule will subject the violator to be removed from the bus, the school or both for a period of time to be established by the proper authority.
7. Students who are by-standers during a fight and who encourage or seek to perpetuate the fight also subject themselves to appropriate disciplinary measures.
8. Noise made continuously or intentionally so as to interfere seriously with the driver's ability to control and operate his/her bus is not accepted.
9. Smoking is not allowed on buses. Matches or cigarette lighters shall not be lit on the bus.

10. Any bus passenger who is found to be under the influence of or in possession of intoxicating beverages, drugs or marijuana shall be subject to immediate suspension or expulsion from the bus, the school or both.

11. Profanity, vulgarities, cheating, gambling and stealing are considered to be serious breaches of discipline which incur proper disciplinary action. Pornography has no place in an educational institution. Students are, therefore, prohibited from possessing such material on school buses.

13. Eating or drinking is not allowed on buses.

14. Radios and tape players shall not be played on buses except under the direct control of the driver.

15. The possession or use of any type of fireworks, incendiary devices or obnoxious material on or in the near proximity of a school bus is considered to be a major offense of school discipline policy.

16. Anyone found to have committed acts of vandalism against school property shall be held financially responsible. Writing, scratching, drawing, painting, carving or cutting, stealing or breaking and entering is considered to be an act of vandalism. Serious cases of vandalism will result in immediate suspension and a review by the Board of Education for possible expulsion from the bus, the school or both.

17. Refusal to identify oneself upon the request of a bus driver constitutes ground for disciplinary action.

18. All students are advised that riding the school bus incurs responsibilities of obedience to those reasonable rules of good conduct. Abuse of this privilege may result in its loss. The school system reserves the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline on the bus and in the schools, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written rules.

Should a student's conduct be disruptive and/or destructive the privilege of riding any school transportation vehicle can be taken away. Such action requires written information from the bus driver to the building administrator describing the misconduct, the date of the incident and the recommended number of dates to be removed from the bus. The building administrator along with the bus driver and bus supervisor make the final decision regarding disciplinary actions for misconduct while on a school vehicle.

Putting a child off of the bus should be used as a last resort for disciplinary actions. At no time should a child be put off the bus with the bus driver without following proper procedure.

After the decision is made as to the number of days, written notification is provided to the parents/guardian regarding the number of days and the reason for loss of bus riding privilege. This information is to be given directly to the parent or guardian by the bus driver. A copy must be retained in the school's file.

Based on a recommendation made to the Terrell County Board of Education by the Terrell Middle High Administration, all fights and assaults on county provided vehicles will be referred to local law officials by the school administrators. Police will be notified only after school officials have made an investigation of the incident. Parents will be notified when their children are involved in a fight on school vehicles.