

**TERRELL COUNTY BOARD POLICY**  
**School Bus Conduct**

**Descriptive Code: JCDAD**  
**Date: 3/12/2012**  
**Rescinds Code: JCDAD**  
**Date Issued: 12/9/2002**

**Bus Conduct**

The Superintendent of Schools will insure that all bus drivers know and understand their responsibilities for establishing and maintaining appropriate student behavior on school buses. The administrative procedures for Bus Conduct will be explained yearly to all drivers.

**Discipline** - Self-control on the part of the student is necessary for the safe operation of any school bus. Students are expected to conform to the same standards of behavior as required during regular school activities.

Students who fail to conform to reasonable behavior expectation may expect to receive disciplinary measures. Repeated for serious violations will result in short or long-term loss of bus privileges.

**Transportation Rules and Pupil Responsibilities** will be published for the safety, health, and welfare of all students who are transported. School bus drivers and/or school administrators will confirm that students have received a copy of these rules at the beginning of each school year. Students will be instructed to give these to parents. Parents are requested to review and impress on their children the necessity to obey these rules.

**Safety** - All drivers and/or school officials will emphasize safety instructions and emergency evacuation procedures during the first year of school. At least one emergency evacuation drill will be conducted during the school year.

Students are expected to follow safety procedures concerning loading, unloading, seating, and emergency evacuation as directed by the driver, teacher, and principal.

Violations of safety measures are considered a serious offense; appropriate disciplinary measures will result.

**Transportation Rules and Pupil Responsibilities**

**School Bus Rules and Pupil Responsibilities**

1. The driver is in charge of the bus and all pupils aboard. Obey the driver promptly and cheerfully.
2. Be on time; the driver cannot wait beyond his or her regular schedule for those who are tardy.
3. Wait in an orderly line off the street or road.
4. Cross in front of the bus only when the road is clear and at a safe distance in front of the bus in order to be seen by the driver. (Minimum: 10 Feet)

5. Do not run toward a school bus while it is in motion.
6. Ride only the bus assigned by school officials.
7. Do not try to get on or off the bus or move about within the bus while it is in motion.
8. Pupils must remain seated while the bus is moving. Ride three in a seat, if necessary, and do not exchange seats unless given permission by the driver. If all seats are taken, stand to the rear of the white marker line as long as the bus is in motion.
9. Behave on the bus as you are expected to behave in the classroom. Insolence, disobedience, vulgarity, foul language, fighting, pushing, and similar offensive acts will not be tolerated.
10. Students are prohibited from acts of physical violence, bullying, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus, verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior.

**Bullying** -- In accordance with Georgia Law, bullying is defined as:

- (1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or
- (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

Discipline for any act of bullying shall be within the discretion of the principal, which may range from a reprimand to out-of-school suspension. However, upon a finding that a student in grades 6 – 12 has committed the offense of bullying or the third time in a school year, at a minimum the student shall be assigned to an alternative education program.

**Physical Violence** -- In accordance with Georgia Law, physical violence is defined as:

- (1) Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another; or
- (2) Intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of him or her, as provided in Code Section 16-3-21.

11. Students are prohibited from using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to cell phones, pagers, audible radios, tape or compact discs without headphones, or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.
12. Students are prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.
13. Do not engage in any activity which might divert the driver's attention and cause an accident such as:
  - {a} Loud talking or laughing, or unnecessary confusion.
  - {b} Unnecessary conversation with the driver.
  - {c} Extending any part of the body out of the bus windows or doors.
14. Pupils are not to open or close bus doors at any time nor shall they regulate or operate any part of the bus.

15. Do not engage in any activity which might damage, cause excessive wear or litter to the bus or other property. The following activities are prohibited at all times:

{a} Smoking, eating, possession or use of alcoholic beverages on the bus.

{b} Spitting or throwing anything in or from the bus.

{c} Bringing animals on the bus.

16. Pupils will not leave the bus on the way to school or home without permission of the driver. Driver will not give permission except in case of personal emergency, or upon request of the principal or pupil's parents. A written request is required.

17. Pupils must be courteous to drivers, to fellow students, and to passersby at all times.

18. Report promptly to the driver any damage done to the bus. Person causing damage shall be expected to defray its full cost.

19. All School Board Policies governing Student Discipline and Conduct will be observed.

**Violations** -- Misconduct on the bus is subject to the same disciplinary measures as misconduct at school. When necessary, the principal or other responsible school system administrators may suspend or revoke riding privileges. In extreme cases, or to protect life and/or property, riding privileges may be revoked. The age of the child and the severity of the offense will be taken into consideration in the administration of the rules.