

# TROUP COUNTY SCHOOLS

## SCHOOL BUS CONDUCT AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

### Safety Instructions and Behavior Rules for School Bus Riders

Permission for any student to ride in a school bus is a PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. The safety and welfare of student riders depends on proper behavior and observance of the following rules and regulations. Any pupil who violates any of these rules will be reported to the proper authority and his/her privilege of transportation may be denied. These rules apply to STUDENT ACTIVITY TRIPS as well as regular bus routes to and from school.

1. The DRIVER is in FULL charge of the bus and its passengers and has authority to enforce all the rules. Respect the authority of the driver by obeying promptly and courteously. Students are to refrain from unnecessary conversation with the driver.
2. BE ON TIME AT THE BUS STOP or loading station (5 min before stop time). The BUS WILL NOT WAIT for those who are late. DO NOT run after the bus if you are late. Drivers have been instructed NOT TO STOP for anyone running after a bus.
3. Wait for the bus to come to a COMPLETE stop before trying to get on or off the bus. If you must CROSS THE ROAD, wait for the DRIVER TO SIGNAL you across with his/her hand when he/she has determined all traffic has stopped. ALWAYS cross at least twelve (12) feet in front of the bus, whether boarding or departing.
4. After boarding the bus, sit down and remain seated until the bus reaches your stop. THE DRIVER WILL ASSIGN SEATS and students will sit in the seats assigned to them.
5. NO fighting, pushing, tripping, kicking, bullying or sexual harassment, etc. will be tolerated on the bus.
6. NO student will be allowed to use tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or light matches or lighters on the bus.
7. NO loud or boisterous speech, swearing or shouting in the bus or out the windows will be allowed. Rude and abusive language will not be tolerated.
8. DO NOT sit with more than the proper number in one seat.
9. DO NOT extend any part of your body out of the bus windows.
10. DO NOT throw anything in or out of the bus window. Any damages or costs incurred by a student throwing an object out of the bus will be the responsibility of the students' parents or guardians and not the Troup County School Board.
11. DO NOT eat or drink on the bus.
12. DO NOT bring live animals, reptiles, insects, etc. on the bus.
13. DO NOT bring firearms, knives, explosives devices, firecrackers, glass objects (other than eye glasses), or other dangerous materials aboard the bus. Such ITEMS WILL BE CONFISCATED and appropriate discipline will follow.

14. TREAT THE BUS WITH RESPECT. THE STUDENT OR HIS/HER PARENTS WILL PAY FOR ANY DAMAGES TO THE BUS.
15. Keep the aisle clear. Hold your books and other things in your lap so the bus aisles and exits are clear.
16. Keep the bus clean.
17. USE HANDRAILS when boarding or departing the bus.
18. In the morning, students will be picked up ONLY at their regularly designated bus stop and discharged ONLY at the designated location for unloading at their assigned school. NO student will be allowed to get on or off the bus at ANY OTHER PLACE.
19. In the afternoon, students will be discharged ONLY at their regularly designated stops. If other arrangements must be made, a NOTE OF PARENTAL PERMISSION must be presented to the PRINCIPAL prior to such needed change. The PRINCIPAL will then notify the bus driver in writing. Space must be available on the bus.
20. Students transported to an athletic, academic, or extra-curricular activity will return to the point of departure on the bus. Exceptions can be made by school administration officials only
21. The primary focus of the bus driver is to operate the bus safely.
22. Occasionally, the bus driver may not be aware of all situations occurring on the bus. Therefore, we encourage all students and parents to report inappropriate behavior such as bullying or sexual harassment to the bus driver or an administrator at the school **immediately**.
23. In summary, no distracting or dangerous activity will be allowed on the bus.
24. **Electronic Devices** - No student shall use an electronic device during the operation of the school bus. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, pagers, audible radios, tape or compact disc without headphones, or any other electronic device that does or could interfere with the school bus driver, the communications equipment or the safe operation of the school bus. Never use an electronic device or wear ear buds/headphones when loading or unloading the bus. You MUST be able to hear!
25. Clothing with pictures, writing, and/or symbols promoting gangs, alcohol, sex, tobacco, profanity or suggestive/crude messages is prohibited. Hats/caps, "hoodies," sweatbands, stocking caps, curlers, ear warmers or sunglasses are not to be worn inside the school building or on the school bus. Bandanas are not permitted at any time.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Official Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_