SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR

Peoria Public Schools has developed a school bus misconduct program to ensure safe and appropriate behavior. Unsafe or inappropriate conduct while traveling to and from the bus stop, or at a bus stops or while riding the bus may result in disciplinary action.

The strength of this program is drawn from the consistent application and enforcement of the program at all levels. The success of the school bus behavior program relies on swift intervention by the drivers, monitors, the transportation department, school administrators and parents alike. The bus driver or monitor will refer student misconduct to the Principal, who will then discuss the matter with the student. Appropriate warning or bus suspension will be communicated to the student in person and to the parent or guardian by telephone and/or in writing. Students have the privilege of riding district transportation; however, when a student fails to practice safe and proper conduct, the privilege may be suspended or the student expelled under the procedures for Board Policies 7:200 and 7:210, as applicable. If a student is suspended due to gross disobedience or misconduct on a school bus, the student may be suspended from the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons (105 ILCS 5/20-22.6(b)).

Students who are transported on buses, or other vehicles provided by the district are under the authority of the driver who is operating the vehicle. Students are also required to follow district policies, regulations and rules while being transported. Parents are requested to review transportation rules with students and encourage appropriate behavior. Drivers have the authority and the responsibility to stop a bus or proceed to campus, if in the driver’s opinion, student(s’) behavior has impaired his or her ability to safely operate the bus.

Buses can sometimes be delayed due to traffic conditions, street construction or bus mechanical problems. Children are advised to be at the bus stop no more than 10 and no less than 5 minutes before their scheduled pickup time.

SPECIFIC RULES

The following specific rules must be followed on all district vehicles:

1. Obey the driver/monitor at all times.
2. All students must ride their assigned bus to and from their assigned stop only. If you wish your child to ride a different bus or get off at a different stop, it is necessary that the school office receive and approve a signed and dated note from a parent or guardian; otherwise, neither the teacher nor the bus driver will allow your child to take a different bus or get off at a different stop.
3. Remain properly seated (facing forward, feet towards the floor and out of the aisle, back against the seat back) until the bus or vehicle has completely stopped and the door has been opened.
4. Keep the aisles clear: no feet, bags or musical instruments are allowed in the aisles. Backpacks must be held in laps.
5. Keep hands, arms, feet, legs and head inside the vehicle.
6. Keep windows up at all times unless instructed otherwise by the driver.
7. Do not throw anything at the bus, inside the bus or from the bus.
8. No eating, drinking or chewing gum allowed on school buses.
9. Maintain orderly conduct at bus stops or other designated loading/unloading spots.
10. Weapons, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, laser pointers, balloons, skateboards, and all similar items that may disrupt the safe operation of the bus are prohibited.
11. Glass items, large items or sharp objects are not to be transported on school buses.
12. Animals and insects are not allowed on school buses. If these are needed for class purposes, parents must transport them to and from school.
13. No headphones of any kind are allowed to be used while on the bus. No cell phones, cameras or MP3-type players may be used or out of backpacks at any time on the bus. These items may be confiscated if seen. The District will not investigate if these types of items become lost or stolen.
14. No verbal or visual profanity, no gang signing and no screaming while on the bus. Talk quietly or in a normal indoor conversational voice at all times.
15. No perfumes, hairsprays, colognes, fragranced items or other aerosols may be sprayed on the bus or immediately before boarding the bus due to potential for serious respiratory reaction by others.
16. Parents and other non-PPS students are prohibited from entering the bus.
17. All athletic-type balls must be transported in a backpack or athletic-type bag.

The Transportation Department will assist the assigned discipline office with a student’s due process. If the discipline officer needs assistance, they are to contact the transportation department to arrange for student positive identification, further statement from the driver or monitor and/or any additional relevant information needed. The discipline officer is to complete a help desk ticket for any and all bus video requests.

Violations of bus rider rules have been divided into Minor and Major Offenses. Following are guidelines for Administrators to address the most common violations.

Minor Offenses:
- Failure to remain properly seated
- Loud disruptive talking or yelling
- Failure to take assigned seat
- Eating/drinking/chewing gum on bus
- Bothering other passengers
- Throwing objects on the bus
- Crossing behind the bus
- Continuously late to bus stop
- Profanity, obscene language or gestures
- Verbal abuse of another student
- Defiant behavior to bus driver or monitor
- Spitting on the bus
### Guidelines:

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| **First Offense** | • Conference with student  
• Parent signs/returns form  
• Other district/legal action as deemed appropriate | **First Offense** | • Conference with student  
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| **Second Offense** | • Conference with parent and student  
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• Parent signs/returns form  
• Other district/legal action as deemed appropriate |
| **Third Offense** | • Conference with parent and student  
• Parent signs/returns form  
• 1-day suspension of bus riding privileges  
• Other district/legal action as deemed appropriate | **Third Offense** | • Conference with parent and student  
• Parent signs/returns form  
• 1-day suspension of bus riding privileges  
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| **Fourth Offense** | • Conference with parent and student  
• Parent signs/returns form  
• 3-day suspension of bus riding privileges  
• Other district/legal action as deemed appropriate | **Fourth Offense** | • Conference with parent and student  
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• 5-day suspension of bus riding privileges  
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• 10-day suspension of bus riding privileges  
• Other district/legal action as deemed appropriate | **Sixth Offense** | • Parent signs/returns form  
• 10-day suspension of bus riding privileges  
• Other district/legal action as deemed appropriate |
Major Offenses:
- Lighting matches/lighter on bus
- Throwing objects from the bus
- Igniting firework on bus
- Verbal abuse of, or physical assault on driver/monitor
- Smoking on bus
- Weapon, simulated weapon, firearm, destructive device or dangerous instrument on bus or at stop
- Activating or tampering with emergency equipment
- Physical assault on student, monitor or bus driver
- Throwing objects at the bus driver or monitor
- Vandalizing district property
- Extending head or arm out of bus window

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LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE TO A DISTRICT VEHICLE
Students who cut, deface or otherwise damage a school vehicle may be denied transportation privileges and/or subject to school disciplinary consequences. Parents are liable for damage done to school property by their children and they will be charged for the cost of such damage.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR VIOLATION OF TRANSPORTATION RULES
In emergency situations, or for serious violations, transportation privileges may be revoked without prior notice. Suspension of transportation privileges for up to one school year may be imposed at the Principal’s discretion.

PARENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO TRANSPORT
The withdrawal of transportation privileges does not relieve parent(s) of the responsibility of sending the student to school. A parent’s inability to transport or arrange transportation for his/her child will not be considered as a basis for revoking a suspension.