



## York School District One Rules and Policies for Students Riding Buses

Late Bus Information: 803-818-6199

To help ensure safe, efficient transportation, parents/legal guardians, and students should familiarize themselves with all York School District One policies and state laws and regulations so they will know their responsibilities. Riding the bus is a privilege rather than a right for each student to enjoy, and students who fail to follow established rules could lose the privilege to ride any York School District One bus.

While a complete listing of district rules related to student transportation is available in the York School District One Board Policy Manual under *AR EEAEC –R Student Conduct on Buses*, the following is generally expected of all passengers:

- Remain seated in an upright position facing forward at all times when the bus is moving and only move from the seat when instructed by the driver or when exiting the bus at a designated stop.
- Talk quietly
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Show respect for all other riders
- Carry nothing larger than a book bag onto the bus and keep that item in your lap at all times

Students are prohibited from bringing the following items on the bus: animals, drinks/food not approved by the district or driver; glass containers; weapons; balloons; oversize items – including band instruments – which obstruct the driver’s view, block the aisle or exits or displace a student from a seat; and any other item or object which will interfere with the safe operation of a school bus. Electronic devices and handheld electronic games will be permitted if equipped with headphones and if they cannot be heard by the driver or other students. Any item carried on to the bus must remain in the student’s book-bag or immediate possession at all times.

### Pre-K through Second Grade Students

For the safety of primary-aged students, a parent/legal guardian or responsible party must be visible to the driver before he/she can discharge a Pre-K through second grade student at home or at the designated stop. If no one is visible, the school will be contacted and the child(ren) will be returned to the school for parent/legal guardian or responsible party pick-up (*AR EEAC –R Bus Scheduling and Routing*)

### Request of Parents/Legal Guardians

- Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for the safety, conduct and timely arrival of their children to, from, and at the designated school bus stop before the arrival of the school bus for pick up and transport to school and the timely departure of the child after the school bus leaves the designated school bus stop after transporting the children from school. (SC-59-67-415)
- Parents/Legal Guardians should encourage students to observe all safety and conduct regulations established for the safe and efficient operation of the school bus and stress the importance of good behavior on the buses.

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## Guest Riders on School Buses

To ensure adequate, safe seating conditions for all passengers, the district will be unable to allow guest riders on school buses, morning or afternoon. Guest riders are students who do not ride the same bus as their "host" or students who are requesting transportation service on a bus other than the one which serves their residences or regular before/after school care location. (*AR EEAC –R Bus Scheduling and Routing*)

The following students are not considered guest riders:

- Students who ride a bus and are wanting to go to the home of someone else who rides the same bus (these students must have written authorization from the school).
- Students who are living temporarily (more than one day) with someone other than parents/legal guardians.
- Students who are typically car riders but temporarily need to ride the bus which serves their residence/daycare.

A student who is eligible to ride buses may ride to and from his/her residence or a regular before/after school care location, which is a place other than a student's residence which is designated by a student's parent/legal guardians as a daily pick-up/drop-off site. These locations cannot be changed randomly or at will. To be eligible to ride a bus, student must:

- live in the attendance zone for the school he/she attends
- live more than 1.5 (one and one-half) mile from the school

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When handling cases of student misconduct on buses, school administrators and other district administrative officials will generally observe the following:

- *First offense* - Warning to student and letter to parents/legal guardians advising them of misconduct, unless the offense is of a nature which, in the judgment of school officials, warrants a suspension from riding the school bus. In such a case, a minimum three-day suspension will be given.
- *Second offense* - Suspension from riding the bus for a period of three to five days, depending on the nature of the offense, and a letter to the parents/legal guardians. In the event a student has already been suspended for three days, the suspension will be for five days.
- *Third offense* - Two weeks' suspension from riding a school bus. A conference at the end of this period between parent/legal guardian, principal and student will be required before bus privileges are restored.
- *Fourth offense* - If after a third offense a student persists in uncontrollable conduct while riding a school bus, he/she will then be suspended from riding a school bus for the remainder of the school year. In such cases, all circumstances will be thoroughly reviewed by school officials before the action is taken.

*School administration or YSD1 Transportation Director may alter consequences as deemed necessary to ensure student safety and appropriate bus conduct*

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## Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices may have an adverse effect on the safe operation of a school bus. If a student's electronic device interferes with the safe operation of a school bus or activity bus, the student will be directed by the driver to put the device away. Failure to comply with driver directive may result in loss of riding privilege. (*J1CJ, Possession / Use of Paging Devices / Cell Phones / Camera Devices in School*)

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*Online links to S.C. laws, S.C. Department of Education regulations, and York School District One policies and administration rules are available through the district website at [www.york.k12.sc.us](http://www.york.k12.sc.us)*

While a complete listing of district rules related to student transportation is available in the York School District One Board Policy Manual under *AR EEAEC-R Student Conduct on Buses*, the following will result in disciplinary action. Discipline records or violations are cumulative; repeated violations may lead to more serious disciplinary actions.

Disorderly Conduct	Disruptive Conduct	Criminal Conduct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using profanity, abusive language, or obscene gestures towards or amongst students</li> <li>• Failure to comply with Driver/Monitor instruction/direction</li> <li>• Getting on or off the bus at an unauthorized stop or riding the wrong bus without permission</li> <li>• Littering on or out of the bus</li> <li>• Standing or sitting improperly while bus is moving</li> <li>• Minor acts of public displays of affection</li> <li>• Violating safety procedures</li> <li>• Using rude or discourteous behaviors toward others</li> <li>• Having hands, arms, head, etc. outside bus doors or windows</li> <li>• Providing false information, including forged notes</li> <li>• Failure to arrive to the bus in a timely manner</li> <li>• Horseplay</li> <li>• Other disorderly acts as determined by administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refusing to sit in assigned seat</li> <li>• Using profanity, abusive language, or obscene gestures directed toward adult</li> <li>• Vandalism<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Harassing, threatening, intimidating, or bullying others</li> <li>• Refusal to obey school personnel</li> <li>• Other disruptive behavior as determined by administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theft and/or possession or sale of stolen property</li> <li>• Throwing objects on or out of the bus resulting in damage to property or striking a person</li> <li>• Physically abusing or threatening faculty or staff members</li> <li>• Acting in a manner as to interfere with the safe operation of the bus<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Sexual Misconduct or Offense or Indecent exposure</li> <li>• Unlawful use of electronic device</li> <li>• Vandalism<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Arson</li> <li>• Assault and battery<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Fighting</li> <li>• Possessing or distributing obscene literature, pictures, or devices</li> <li>• Possessing, transferring, threatening to use, or distributing object(s) that may be used as a weapon, explosive, or other incendiary device, or object(s) that creates disruption, property damage, and/or injury</li> <li>• Possession, use, or distribution of any illegal or controlled substance or paraphernalia, including tobacco products or other unauthorized substances as defined by law or local school board policy</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Any vandalism will result in student billed for property damage minimum of \$50.

<sup>2</sup>Any student who is charged with assault on a school bus or is charged with interference of the operation of a school bus will be automatically suspended from riding the bus for one calendar year. A second offense of the above noted charges, whether at school or on the bus, will result in a permanent expulsion from school bus transportation.

School administration or YSDI Transportation Director may alter consequences as deemed necessary to ensure student safety and appropriate bus conduct.

**The York School District One board of trustees has authorized the use of video and audio recording devices on all buses used by the district. The district will use these devices to monitor student behavior in order to maintain a safe environment. Students and parents/legal guardians are hereby notified that the content of the recordings may be used in a student disciplinary proceeding. (AR EEAEC-R, 3110109)**