



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

- **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT - OVERVIEW AND INFORMATION.** Bus Safety will be enforced to ensure the safety of all children. Riding a school bus is a privilege and should be treated as such. As parents/guardians, you can help your student develop a positive attitude toward school bus safety. We encourage you to support our school bus drivers in their efforts to safely transport your children to and from school each day.
- **SCHOOL BUS PROCEDURES.** Riding a school bus is a privilege; it is not a required service. Bus suspension is a reasonable and often necessary discipline action. Bus privileges can be suspended either temporarily or permanently.
- **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY.** School bus discipline and school bus safety are one in the same. Students must properly ride the bus to ensure everyone's safety including that of other students, motorists, and pedestrians. Conduct that is disruptive or distracting will not be tolerated. All bus safety rules apply to regular bus routes, field trips, and athletic trips.

It shall be unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus, or public school bus stop as designated by local school boards of education. Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. (OCGA 20-2-1181).

SAFETY ON THE SCHOOL BUS

- Observe the same conduct as in the classroom.
- Go directly to assigned seat when entering the bus. Remain properly seated and keep hands to self.
- Never throw objects in or out of the bus.
- Show proper respect to the bus driver and follow directions.
- Do not eat, drink, chew gum or bring glass objects, nuisance items, animals, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons, cell phones, mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices that do or might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus. Electronic devices such as, but not limited to, cellular phones, pagers, audible radios, tape or compact discs without headphones or any other device that may interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus are prohibited (OCGA 20-2-751.5).
- Never bring objectionable or dangerous objects such as weapons, glass, skateboards, or large projects on the bus.
- Refrain from using loud voices, profanity and/or obscene gestures, and respect the rights and safety of others.
- Keep totally silent at railroad crossings.
- Stay seated until time to get off the bus.



- Do not tamper with safety equipment including crossing gate, emergency doors, windows or hatches.
- Help keep the bus clean and in good, safe condition.

SAFETY ENTERING AND EXITING THE BUS

- Be sure all traffic has stopped both ways before crossing the road. (Stop, Look, Listen)
- Walk 10 feet in front of the bus to stay in the driver's view when crossing the road.
- Never cross the road behind a school bus.
- Stop at the centerline of the road and look both ways before crossing after exiting the bus.
- Do not linger in the "Danger Zone" (The "Danger Zone" is a ten foot parameter around the bus where most accidents happen.)
- Do not go back for items dropped in the "Danger Zone" Leave the item. Get the driver's attention before retrieving anything!
- Never stop in the "Danger Zone" to get mail from the mailbox.
- Secure loose items such as toys, key chains, and drawstrings to avoid hanging them on the bus, especially the handrail.

SAFETY AT THE BUS STOP

- Take the shortest, safest route to the bus stop.
- Be at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before time for the bus to arrive and ready to board the bus.
- Walk on the left shoulder of the road facing traffic unless there are sidewalks.
- Wear light or brightly colored clothing.
- Wait a safe distance from the road, but be prepared to quickly board the bus.
- Respect the property of other people.
- Refrain from pushing, fighting, or any other unsafe activity at the bus stop!
- Report disturbances immediately to school administration for resolution.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY...

- Parents are responsible for providing transportation for students suspended from riding the bus.
- Bus drivers are in complete charge at all times and are authorized to assign seats.
- Conversation with the driver or behavior distracting the driver by students during loading and unloading of buses should be avoided. During this critical time complete concentration by the driver is required.



- Parents with concerns or complaints that need to be addressed by the bus driver should schedule a conference with the driver through the school. Under no circumstances should parents distract the driver by boarding the bus or complaining at the bus stop. Student safety must be top priority during this time.
- Student conduct in school and on school buses may be videotaped with surveillance equipment. This equipment is installed for the purpose of promoting a safe environment for students, personnel, passengers and drivers.
- Any action or disturbance that endangers the well being of any student will be handled in accordance with the student discipline sections of school handbooks and the Pike County Code of Conduct.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES:

- Students will follow directions of the driver at all times.
- Students will wait for the driver's signal to cross the road in front of the bus and continue to watch for traffic.
- Students will sit safely in their assigned seats.
- Students will keep hands, arms and heads inside the bus and not out of the windows.
- Students will talk in quiet voices and use appropriate language.
- Students will not eat, drink, chew gum or bring tobacco products on the bus.
- Students will not bring animals, glass objects, or items too large to hold on their lap on the bus.
- Students will safely wait for, board, and exit at their assigned bus stop.
- Students will help keep their bus clean.
- Students will be totally silent at all railroad crossings.

SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

- Students are to board the bus immediately after school is dismissed. Once buses are directed to depart, bus drivers are not to stop for late students.
- All students can have assigned seats.
- All students must have an authorized bus pass from their school in order to ride a different bus or to get off at a bus stop that is not their assigned bus stop.
- Due to space, a student may only have one extra student ride home with them on their bus.
- All carry on items such as band instruments, book bags and projects must be small enough to be held in the student's lap. Student must be able to board the bus with the item safely without assistance.
- Balloons are not to be transported at any time.
- Sports equipment must be enclosed in a sports bag if it is transported on a school bus.