

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES/BUS CONDUCT

Under the laws of our State, the Meriwether County School System has the authority to make reasonable regulations governing bus conduct. The walking distance to schools shall be one and one-half miles. The walking distance to a bus stop shall not exceed one-half mile. To provide for a safe and comfortable trip to and from school, students are required to observe the following rules: (See Bus Handbook for more guidance.)

1. Parents are responsible for getting their children to and from the bus stop. Buses run on schedule and CANNOT WAIT for passengers.
2. Misbehavior at the bus stop could result in refusal of transportation by the principal.
3. The driver has the right to assign students to certain seats to promote order on the bus. ALL STUDENTS WILL REMAIN SEATED WHILE BUS IS IN MOTION.
4. Drivers will not let pupils off the bus under any circumstances while traveling to and from school.
5. Students are expected to sit two to a seat. A standing load of 20% over the seated capacity is permitted, per state mandate.
6. Do not use profane or vulgar language while waiting for the bus.
7. Stand off the roadway while awaiting the bus.
8. Keep arms and head inside windows.
9. Be quiet and orderly on the bus; talk in low tone; ABSOLUTE SILENCE is required at railroad crossings.
10. Tobacco, drugs, and alcohol are prohibited.
11. No eating or drinking allowed on the bus.
12. Objectionable or dangerous objects are not permitted on the bus.
13. Fighting or physical play is prohibited.
14. No knives or other weapons allowed on the bus.
15. When crossing the street is necessary, students will immediately cross in front of the bus in full view of the driver.
16. Students may transport band instruments on the bus if space is available.
17. The driver is in full charge of bus and students.
18. Riding the bus is a privilege. It is not to be abused.
19. Cameras will monitor some buses.
20. Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.
21. No throwing or discarding items from the bus windows.
22. Rear exit doors are to only be used in the event of an emergency.

If problems arise, parents are not to confront the bus driver at the bus stop. Make an appointment with the Director of the Transportation Department at 706-441-0610 to discuss the matter.

Behavior of students on school buses is considered an extension of classroom behavior. Students who fail to respond to the direction of the bus driver shall be reported to the school principal who may deny the student bus transportation. Any bus driver who feels that the principal's failure to deny bus transportation to a student will imperil other students in the driver's charge may appeal through his supervisor. Improper bus conduct may result in suspension or expulsion from school.

First offense - A parent conference for the development of a Student Bus Behavior Contract and suspension from the bus for one day.

Second offense –

a parent conference for the development and/or revisions of a Student Bus Behavior Contract and suspension from the bus for three (3) days based on the discretion of the principal.

Third offense - a parent conference to modify the contract and expulsion from the bus for offenses that will lead to a tribunal hearing; otherwise, a five-school day suspension from the bus. Any student who feels that expulsion was inappropriate may appeal to the superintendent within ten (10) days of expulsion.

Fourth offense – Parent Conference to modify contract and expulsion from the bus for seven school days.

Fifth offense – Expulsion from the bus for ten school days.

Sixth offense – Principal has the discretion to expel the student from the bus for the remainder of the semester