

Greenville Independent School District Policies and Guidelines Governing School Bus Students

The Greenville ISD provides bus service to and from school for eligible students who reside in the school district. This service is provided at State expense and is offered as a courtesy to eligible students who wish to avail themselves of the service. The nearest practical route is the nearest traveled public road, which may or may not be the road used by the school bus.

In order to meet the conditions outlined by the State and provide safe and efficient transportation of eligible students, the Transportation Department has adopted standard rules and regulations and has provided restrictive measures for violations of the rules. **School principals are responsible for students attending their schools who violate these rules and regulations.**

Students riding the bus to and from school are considered under the jurisdiction of school authorities from the time they arrive at the bus stop in the morning until they leave the bus stop in the afternoon. The bus driver is charged with the responsibility of proper conduct on the school bus and must take the necessary steps to maintain order, just as a teacher would maintain discipline in his or her classroom. These rules are listed for your information and for the guidance of your child.

Rules and Regulations:

1. Parent or guardian will complete online enrollment process and complete bus consent form for their student to ride the school bus.
2. At no time will students act toward or address comments to a driver in a disrespectful manner or refuse to cooperate with the driver.
3. Students will be discharged from the bus only at the designated regular stop nearest home, unless a written, signed and dated authorization to get off elsewhere along the route is given by the parent and/or school official to the driver.
4. Students will not refuse to sit in an assigned seat or deny another person a place to sit.
5. Students will remain seated with feet on the floor until the bus stops at the student's destination.
6. Students will not throw or shoot articles within the bus or out the bus window.
7. Students will not extend any part of their body or clothing out of the bus window and will also keep the walkway aisle clear.
8. Students will not mark, deface, destruct, or tamper with seats, windows, emergency doors, or other equipment.
9. Students will not leave the bus through the emergency door except in an emergency.
10. Students will not yell, scream, or whistle, and will not play music on the bus.
11. Scuffling, fighting, and the use of obscene, vulgar, or profane language are forbidden.
12. Students will not carry weapons, explosives (such as fireworks), unsheathed pointed articles, animals, intoxicating beverages, or drugs on the bus. They will not carry articles that are used to harm, damage, or hinder the safe operation of the school bus.
13. Students will not possess or use matches, lighters, or tobacco in any form on the bus.
14. Students will not eat or drink on the bus unless authorized by the bus driver.
15. Students may carry small band instruments on the bus that they can hold in their lap or place under the seats. They may not carry large instruments that take up seating and are a hazard to the safe operation of the school bus.
16. Students will not cross behind the bus.
17. Students will not write on, disfigure, or destroy any part of the school bus. When damage to a school bus is involved, payment for damage may be assessed to the student and/or the parents.
18. Students will not have laser pointers on the bus at any time.
19. Any student riding in a district owned vehicle will wear a seat belt as provided on the vehicle.
20. Greenville ISD is not responsible for any article(s) left unattended on the bus.

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Definitions:

Bus Referral-Any violation of the general conduct rules that are not related to safety violations or severe referrals. Examples are (littering, eating or drinking on the bus) or any violation of safety rules and regulations that may disrupt the driver's attention. Examples are (failure to remain seated, profanity, disrespectful behavior, cell phone usage, etc)

Severe Referral-Automatic suspension from the bus and potential law enforcement involvement resulting in arrest and/or citations issued. Any violation that severely disrupts the driver's ability to safely drive the bus. Examples are (fighting, sexual misconduct, vandalism/destruction of property, alcohol or drug offenses, weapon offenses, etc)

Enforcement actions

Bus Referrals:

1st Incident-Student warned by driver

2nd incident-Student is written up, referred to principal for warning

3rd incident-Student loses bus riding privileges for 5 days

4th incident-Student loses bus riding privileges for 30 days

5th incident-Student loses bus riding privileges for remainder of semester

6th incident-Student is removed from the bus for the remainder of the school year

Severe Referrals:

1st incident-Student suspended from bus for 30 days

2nd incident-Student suspended for remainder of semester

3rd incident-Student removed from the bus for the remainder of the school year

Message to Parents:

You can be of great assistance in providing safe and effective transportation for your children if you will **(1) cooperate in every way with the school administration and your bus driver; and (2) accept joint responsibility with school officials for maintaining proper conduct of your children while they are involved in the various phases of school transportation.** You know the safety rules and we hope you will encourage your child to know them and obey them. You can also set an example for your child by your own safety-mindfulness behind the wheel. Video cameras may be used in district vehicles to promote compliance with the rules and regulations.

Message to Students:

A school bus is an expensive machine built to save you a walk to school and back each day and get you there safely. Safety is the key to the whole program, and you are the most important member. You can do your part if you will learn the bus safety rules, obey the driver and exercise self-discipline by always doing what is right and safe without having to be reminded. In return, the driver will do his or her best to deal with you fairly while keeping his/her eyes primarily on the road in order to transport you to and from school as quickly, safely and as close to schedule as possible.

If you need information concerning bus routes, call the Transportation Department at 903-457-2658.

If you need information concerning student misconduct on buses, you should call the student's school principal.