

Regulation

SUPPORT OPERATIONS

5400.1

STUDENT CONDUCT ON BUSES

I. Expectations for Student Conduct on Buses

All students are expected to follow bus safety rules and conduct themselves in a respectful, responsible manner. The school bus is an extension of the classroom, and students are subject to the same behavioral expectations outlined in the District Code of Conduct.

A. Waiting for the Bus

1. Arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled pickup time.
2. Stand at least 10 feet away from the road and wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching.
3. Do not engage in horseplay, running, pushing, or other unsafe behaviors at the bus stop.
4. Be respectful of private property while waiting.

B. Boarding the Bus

1. Board the bus in an orderly, single-file line without pushing.
2. Use the handrail when entering the bus.
3. Find a seat immediately or take your assigned seat, and remain seated for the duration of the ride.
4. Personal devices (e.g., phones, tablets, earbuds) must be stored safely during boarding and unloading to ensure awareness of surroundings.
5. Follow any assigned seating instructions given by the driver or school staff.

C. Conduct While Riding the Bus

Prohibited Behaviors (Do Not Do)

1. No eating, drinking, or chewing gum on the bus (to prevent choking and maintain cleanliness).
2. Do not throw objects inside or outside the bus.
3. Do not extend arms, legs, or any body parts out of the windows.
4. Remain seated at all times while the bus is in motion. Do not move to another seat.
5. No excessive noise, yelling, or disruptive behavior that may distract the driver.
6. Do not engage in bullying, harassment, or discriminatory behavior (including racist or offensive language).

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7. No use of profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
8. No physical aggression, fighting, or inappropriate contact with others.
9. Possession or use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, alcohol, drugs, or any illegal substances is strictly prohibited.
10. No weapons or dangerous objects are allowed on the bus.
11. Do not block the driver's view or interfere with the operation of the bus.
12. No unauthorized individuals are allowed to board the bus.

Expected Behaviors (Do This)

1. Keep hands, feet, and belongings to yourself and out of the aisle.
2. Speak in a quiet and respectful voice.
3. Listen carefully and follow all directions given by the driver.
4. Help keep the bus clean—dispose of trash properly at school/home.
5. Be courteous and respectful to fellow passengers and the driver.
6. Upon boarding the bus in the morning, remain on the bus until arrival at school.

D. Unloading the Bus

1. Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver signals it is safe to exit.
2. Exit the bus one row at a time, in an orderly fashion.
3. Do not push or rush off the bus.
4. If crossing the street:
 - Walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus so the driver can see you.
 - Wait for the driver's signal before crossing.
 - Look both ways before stepping onto the roadway.
5. Personal devices must be stored safely during unloading to maintain awareness of surroundings.
6. Students will only be allowed to exit the bus at their assigned stop unless prior written authorization has been provided by a parent/guardian and approved by school administration.

E. Authority of the Bus Driver & Consequences for Misconduct

1. The bus driver is responsible for the safety and discipline of students on the bus.
2. Students must comply with the driver's instructions at all times.
3. Violations of bus rules may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to:
 - Verbal warning from the driver or school staff.
 - Parent/guardian notification.
 - Assigned seating.

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- Temporary or permanent suspension of bus privileges.
 - Further disciplinary action as per the District Code of Conduct.
4. Serious offenses such as threats, violence, possession of prohibited substances, or repeated defiance will result in immediate referral to administration.

Waterville Central School District

Approved by the Superintendent: 08/21/15, 3/25/25