

## **STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES**

The New Hanover County Board of Education endorses the following rules concerning the behavior of students while riding a school bus:

1. The school bus, including the bus stop area, is an extension of the school. All school rules and regulations that pertain to student conduct in the school are applicable to student conduct on the bus and at the bus stop. Therefore, the Student Discipline Policy is applicable (Policy 8410 Student Discipline Policies, Rules and Procedures) to incidents occurring on the school bus and at the bus stop area.
2. Discipline on the school bus is the responsibility of the principal of the school where the student is assigned. The principal has authority over students on the bus and at designated bus stops. This authority is delegated to the bus driver. The driver has the responsibility and authority for the safe operation of the bus and will refer all students who violate regulations to the principal.
3. Students shall not attempt to ride in a school bus unless assigned to it by the principal.
4. Students shall not board or disembark the bus unless it is their assigned stop.
5. When students enter the school bus, they should take their assigned seats quickly and remain seated and face front at all times.
6. With permission of the driver, students are allowed to converse quietly with persons sitting near them.
7. Students shall not rush to get off the bus.
8. Students shall not loiter or play near a stopped bus, but shall walk quickly away from the bus to the school building.
9. The following is a nonexclusive list of specific bus behaviors that are prohibited:
  - Putting any part of the body outside of the bus;
  - Throwing objects about the bus or out the windows;
  - Eating, drinking, or chewing gum on the school bus;
  - Striking matches or lighting cigarette lighters;
  - Piling books, musical instruments, lunch boxes, or other objects in the bus aisle;

- Using profane and indecent language, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or substances that mimic the effects of illegal drugs while riding in a bus;
- Taking pets or other animals on the school bus;
- Taking balloons on the school bus;
- Making loud or boisterous noises that have the potential of distracting the driver's attention;
- Fighting, playing or scuffling on the school bus;
- Tampering with the emergency door or any other part of the bus;
- Marring or defacing the bus in any way;
- Tampering with the fire extinguishers or first aid supplies;
- Harassing or assaulting other students, the driver or bus monitor; and
- Making obscene gestures.

Students and parents are advised that video cameras are used to monitor behavior on the bus.

Students who fail to observe these rules are subject to immediate disciplinary action since their failure to do so may affect the safety of others. The driver will report a student who misbehaves to the principal on the same school day if the incident occurs in the morning, or the next morning if it occurs in the afternoon. Disciplinary action may include suspensions from the bus and other disciplinary action.

CROSS REF: Policy 8410 Student Discipline Policies, Rules and Procedures

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