

Gloucester Public Schools

Our mission is for all students to be successful, engaged, lifelong learners

BUS BEHAVIOR POLICY

GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT BUS POLICY IS ALWAYS IN EFFECT TO ENSURE THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND WELFARE OF EACH AND EVERY STUDENT RIDING ON A SCHOOL BUS. RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS IS A PRIVILEGE. BEHAVIOR ISSUES WILL BE DEALT WITH IN ACCORDANCE TO THE FOLLOWING POLICY. SUSPENSION OR THE REVOCATION OF RIDING PRIVILEGES WILL NOT BE A BASIS FOR A REFUND OF BUS FEES.

BUS STOPS

- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure the safety of their child traveling to and from the bus stop and while at the bus stop.
- Students should be on time for the bus, but do not arrive at the stop earlier than 10 minutes before the time that the bus actually arrives.
- Students should not play in the road; push, pull or chase other students; or trespass on or vandalize private property.
- As the bus approaches, students should line up at least six feet away from the roadway and do not approach the bus until it has stopped and the driver has activated the stop sign.
- If a student must cross the street, he/she needs to walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus.

KINDERGARTENERS

- All kindergarten students must be put on and taken off the bus by a parent/guardian or other adult that has been so designated in writing to the Principal and the Transportation Director.
- An older sibling may take a kindergarten student off the bus, again, only if written permission has been submitted to the Principal and the Transportation Director in advance.

- Kindergarteners will not be left by the bus driver unattended and will be returned to the school.

BUS CONDUCT

- The school bus is an extension of the classroom. School Committee policy requires that the student conduct himself/herself in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Bus drivers are in complete charge of the bus and have the authority and the responsibility to maintain good order while operating the bus. Additionally, bus drivers are instructed to inform the building principal and the transportation department regarding any student misconduct. The building principal or Transportation Director will inform the parents/guardians of the misconduct and request their cooperation in monitoring the student's behavior. Any student who becomes a disciplinary problem on the school bus will have riding privileges suspended on a temporary or a permanent basis. In such cases, the parents/guardians of the student will become responsible for transportation of the student to and from school. **There will be no fee refunds for denial of school transportation services due to disciplinary actions.**

BUS RIDING RULES AND PRIVILEGES

- A bus pass must be shown upon boarding the bus.
- A bus pass may not be used by anyone other than the individual for whom the pass was purchased.
- Students must be respectful to the bus driver and other students; and follow the directions of the school bus drivers.
- Students must find a seat quickly and stay in that seat; keep aisles clear; refrain from interfering with anyone passing to or from a seat; stay seated while the bus is moving and wait until it comes to a complete stop before rising.
- Students must speak in quiet voices; keep hands to themselves; refrain from moving about, throwing objects, littering or extending any part of their bodies out side the bus.

- Students are not permitted to open doors or windows without permission of the bus driver. Students are not to touch emergency exits, unless instructed to do so.
- Students are not allowed to eat or drink on the bus whatsoever.
- Students are not allowed to bring items on the bus that will not fit in the backpacks nor carry hazardous materials, nuisance items or animals on the bus.
- For safety reasons, students are further prohibited from carrying on to the bus the following items: balloons, baseball bats, basketballs, soccer balls, skateboards, roller blades, scooters, hockey sticks, or any athletic equipment that will not fit in the backpack; fundraiser items such as boxes of gift wrap, any type of critter, birthday cakes, cup cakes or party supplies and large school projects.
- Smoking or lighting anything on the bus is prohibited by State Law; this also refers to the use or possession of drugs or alcohol.
- Students must refrain from any actions or behavior which could distract the driver from safe operation of the school bus.
- Students may not change buses or bus stops without prior approval of the Transportation Department
- Students will be held liable for any damage resulting from defacing or causing destruction of school buses.
- Students are not allowed to use cell phones or video recording devices while on the bus.
- There is a zero tolerance policy for bullying while on the school bus or at a bus stop.
- Possession or threats of weapons, explosives, or flammables is strictly prohibited and subject to expulsion from the bus.

POLICY/PROCEDURES FOR MISCONDUCT

Bus drivers will file a misconduct report to the Transportation Director who will forward a copy to the appropriate building principal. In all cases the student will be spoken to by the building principal and the parents/guardians will be notified of their student's misconduct. Parent/guardian copy of the report should be signed and returned to the Transportation Office.

LEVEL 1 INFRACTIONS

1. Eating, drinking or littering on the bus
2. Refusing to remain seated
3. Excessive noise
4. Not carrying bus pass
5. Obstructing aisles
6. Changing buses or bus stops without permission

LEVEL 2 INFRACTIONS

1. Being rude, discourteous or distracting
2. Throwing objects on or from the bus
3. Unacceptable language
4. Excessive mischief
5. Hands, arms or head out of the bus (window)
6. Allowing another student to use bus pass
7. Verbal harassment or threat of any nature
8. Use of cell phone without permission
9. Use of a video recording device
10. Disobeying driver's/monitor's instruction

LEVEL 3 INFRACTIONS

1. Physical, verbal or written activity of a sexual nature
2. Physical aggression against any person
3. Possession of anything that can be used as or considered a weapon
4. Possession of any illegal substances
5. Possession of tobacco or alcohol
6. Possession or threats of weapons, explosives or flammables

CONSEQUENCES

LEVEL 1 INFRACTION

- **First Offense:** A copy of the Bus Misconduct form shall be sent from the Principal or Transportation Director to the parents/guardians advising them of the behavior. Possible detention.
- **Second Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked for one day and parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.

- **Third Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked for a three days and parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.
- **Fourth Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked for a one week period and the parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.

LEVEL 2 INFRACTION

- **First Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked for a one week period and parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.
- **Second Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked for a two week period and parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.
- **Third Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked for a one month period and parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.
- **Fourth Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the school year and the parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.

LEVEL 3 INFRACTION

- **First Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked for a minimum of one month dependent upon the severity of the infraction. Parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.
- **Second Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the school year or permanently dependent upon the severity of the infraction. Parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.
- **Third Offense:** Bus privileges will be revoked permanently. Parents/guardians shall be so notified by the Principal or Transportation Director.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians and students to be familiar with and follow school bus transportation policies.

GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PUPIL RULES

Pupil shall arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled time for their bus.

Pupil shall wait in a safe place, clear of traffic and away from where the bus stops.

Pupil shall wait in an orderly line and avoid horseplay.

Pupil shall cross the road in front of the bus only after the bus has come to a complete stop and upon direction of the driver (10 feet minimum in front of the bus).

Pupil shall go directly to an available or assigned seat when entering the bus.

Pupil shall remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear.

Pupil shall observe classroom conduct and obey the driver promptly and respectfully.

Pupil shall refrain from throwing or passing objects on, from or into busses.

Pupil is permitted to carry only objects that can be held on his/her lap.

Pupil shall refrain from the use of profane language on the bus.

Pupil is prohibited from using tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substance.

Pupil shall refrain from eating and drinking on the bus at all times.

Pupil shall not carry hazardous materials, nuisance items and animals onto the bus.

Pupil shall respect the rights and safety of others.

Pupil shall refrain from leaving or boarding the bus at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school.

Pupil is prohibited from extending head, arms or objects out of the bus windows.

Pupils may not ride a different bus for the purpose of play dates, scouts, Sunday school, work, etc.

Pupils shall not carry skateboards, roller blades, or scooters on the bus unless they are in proper carriers. Ice skates brought to school for gym purposes must have skate guards.

Pupils may not use cell phones or video recording devices on the bus.