

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The Virginia Code, § [22.1-176](#), permits school boards to provide transportation for pupils, but does not require them to do so. For Appomattox County Public Schools, daily bus service will be provided for in-county students.

### **Behavior on School Bus**

Students shall not behave in a disruptive manner or otherwise violate these Standards of Conduct while waiting for a school bus, while on a school bus or after being discharged from a school bus.

**Walkers:** Students are required to arrive promptly at school and to use routes which do not represent a hazard situation for them.

## **MEETING THE BUS**

State law requires that buses operate on the same routes, as per their schedules, on a daily basis. Parent(s) or their designees are requested to accompany their young child(s) to and from the bus stop.

### **Students should:**

- Be on time;
- Arrive at their bus stop at least 5-10 minutes before the regular pickup time;
- Stand away from the road. Do Not stand on the traveled portion of the roadway while waiting for a bus;
- Maintain proper conduct;
- Respect the property of others;
- Wait until the bus has stopped; then walk to the front door. Do Not run alongside a moving bus;
- Board the bus in an orderly fashion.

### **Students Riding the Bus should:**

- Obey instructions of bus driver and/or bus attendant;
- Be seated immediately;
- Remain seated, facing forward;
- Share seats equally;
- Be courteous;
- Respect property.
- Keep all body parts inside bus;
- Keep aisles clear; and
- Maintain good conduct.

### **The following infractions are not permitted:**

- Fire
- Fighting
- Smoking
- Profanity
- Horseplay
- Eating/Drinking
- Spitting
- Obscene gestures
- Vandalism
- Throwing objects from the bus
- Creating loud noises
- Having glass objects
- Transporting large objects (*including class projects or large band instruments*)
- Tampering with equipment
- Weapons
- Drug and Substance Abuse
- Littering
- Threats
- Endangering others
- Other Violations of the "Code of Conduct"

## **CELL PHONE USE**

Keep cell phones, beepers, or other communication devices off and out of sight while on the bus. Students on activity or team buses may use cellular phones only with permission of the driver or sponsor/coach.

## **LEAVING THE BUS**

### **Students must:**

- Remain seated until bus comes to a full stop;
- Leave the bus in an orderly manner, students in the front seats first;
- Leave the bus stop area when safety permits as soon as discharged from the bus;
- Not loiter around the bus;
- Cross the street, if necessary to do so, at the front of the bus and at a distance of at least ten feet in front of the bus;
- Not cross until the driver has signaled that it is safe to do so.
- Not cross four or more traffic lanes or a divided roadway.

If a disciplinary problem should occur in the afternoon, and the problem is such that, in the judgment of the driver, it is unsafe to proceed, the driver may return to the school to seek immediate disciplinary action and/or assistance. Bus drivers are instructed to report any infractions to the school principal/designee.

## **CHANGING BUSES**

Students must have a written request from the parent to be let off at a stop other than their regular scheduled stop or to ride a bus other than their regular scheduled bus. This written request is subject to approval by the school principal or designee. Bus drivers must receive notification by the school office when approval is given to a student to change to an alternate stop or bus. No change will be made in the location of bus stops or bus routing without approval of the Transportation Department. No change in the bus assigned may be made without the permission of the school principal or designee and the Transportation Department.

## **TRESPASSING**

Only authorized persons are permitted aboard a school bus (school property). “It shall be unlawful for any person, whether or not a student, to enter upon or remain upon any school property after having been directed to vacate the property by a person authorized to give such direction.” ([Virginia Code § 18.2-128](#))

## **RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS IS A PRIVILEGE\***

Should a student be reported to the principal, the principal will be responsible for disciplinary action, which may include the loss of the privilege of bus transportation, until the parent, the bus driver, the principal, (and in some instances, a Transportation Department representative) can arrive at an understanding which will correct the problem. The parent will be responsible for the transportation of students who have lost school bus transportation privileges. Oral or written threats to harm others or ACPS property, which are planned or made on a school bus or which are intended to be carried out on a school bus, at a school bus stop, or while going to and coming from school, may result in the loss of transportation for a specific period of time or for the remainder of the school year in addition to other disciplinary action. A School Bus Video Observation System records activities aboard buses. Please feel free to contact the school principal or the transportation department (352-7441) for help with problems related to the transportation of your child.

**\*Riding the school bus is a privilege not a right, except as required by law for students with disabilities.**