

Bus Behavior and Conduct

Introduction

Van Buren CSD has student behavior guidelines which apply to all students transported on school district buses for any purpose. Every student has the right to a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school or on any type of activity trip. With safety being the district and bus driver's primary concern, students must recognize the importance of proper personal conduct and how this contributes to ensuring a safe ride for all individuals on the school bus.

Situations might arise in which student behavior is in conflict with established rules and may jeopardize the safety of others on the bus.

The purpose of this policy is to provide predetermined disciplinary consequences for unacceptable behaviors while riding the bus or waiting at a designated school bus stop. If a student is involved in a serious or repeated unacceptable behavior, school administrators will have the option to suspend the bus riding privileges.

Suspension from riding the school bus is not necessarily a suspension from school.

A parent/guardian of a student suspended from riding the school bus is responsible for ensuring safe transportation to and from school for the student during the bus suspension.

Students with special needs who lose bus riding privileges due to disciplinary action will have the disability and the individual education plan reviewed as part of the final disciplinary decision.

The district administration will review each discipline issue as reported, which may or may not be listed in the three classes of unacceptable behavior. Each issue will be treated uniquely with student behavior and incident factors fully investigated.

Disciplinary action will be assigned with those factors in mind.

Unacceptable Behaviors

Class I:

- a. Extending head, arms, or legs out of windows
- b. Distracting the bus driver
- c. Failure to follow the bus drivers' instructions
- d. Throwing/shooting objects on the bus
- e. Failure to follow safe crossing procedures
- f. Standing while the bus is in motion
- g. Jumping over or crawling under seats
- h. Riding on a bus other than assigned bus without proper permission
- i. Boarding/exiting a bus at a location other than the assigned stop without permission
- j. Shouting, yelling, screaming, or excessive noise
- k. Tripping another student
- l. Blocking the bus aisle
- m. Spitting
- n. Horseplay
- o. Possession of squirt guns, laser pointer, water balloons, liquid container of any type, shaving cream, eggs or dispensing perfume or aftershave
- p. Any other behavior as defined by administration that constitutes this level

Class II:

- a. Theft or robbery
- b. Willful damage to property of another individual
- c. Tampering with emergency equipment
- d. Chasing or running alongside a moving bus
- e. Throwing or shooting an object at the driver or out of the bus window
- f. Bringing dangerous objects onto the bus. Also, items dangerous by use, not by design

- g. Pushing/shoving another student in the bus loading zone, bus danger zone or near a moving bus
- h. False identification or refusal to provide correct identification information to the driver
- i. Vandalism of the school bus (an individual responsible for vandalizing a bus will be responsible for the cost of replacement items and/or repair)
- j. Possession of obscene/pornographic materials
- k. Use of obscene or profane languages or gestures
- l. Possession of a lighter or matches
- m. Harassment in any form, including bullying
- n. Interfering with or disrespectful towards the bus driver or other staff
- o. Physical aggression or the threat of physical aggression against another person
- p. Fighting
- q. Any other behavior as defined by administration that constitutes this level

Class III:

- a. Unacceptable sexual conduct, including sexual harassment
- b. Possession of a knife, weapon or ammunition
- c. Detonation of any firework or like device on bus/at bus stop
- d. Ignition of any type of fire, including matches and lighters
- e. Possession of a flammable liquid on the bus
- f. Assault or threat to the bus driver or any other person
- g. Attempt to ride on the outside of the school bus
- h. Running out in front of a moving bus
- i. Opening any emergency exit, or attempting to exit from a moving bus
- j. Possession or use of alcohol
- k. Possession or use of tobacco products
- l. Possession or use of drugs or drug related material
- m. Any other behavior as defined by administration that constitutes this level

Consequences for Unacceptable Behavior

Class I:

- 1st Offense-Parental contact by bus driver. If needed, follow-up communication by transportation director or building administrator. Discipline will be handled at attendance center.
- 2nd Offense-Same as above, discipline at building and/or 1-3 days suspension from riding the bus
- 3rd Offense-3-5 days suspension from riding the bus
- 4th Offense-5-15 days suspension from riding the bus

Class II:

- 1st Offense-Parental contact by bus driver. Follow-up communication by transportation director or building administrator. Discipline at building and/or 1-3 days suspension from riding the bus
- 2nd Offense-3-5 days suspension from riding the bus
- 3rd Offense-5-10 days suspension from riding the bus
- 4th Offense-Suspension from riding the bus for the remainder of the year or 60 day minimum

Class III:

- 1st Offense-5-30 days suspension from riding the bus
- 2nd Offense-Suspension from riding the bus for the remainder of the school year or 60 day minimum. This may be carried into the next academic year if less than 60 days remain in the current academic year

A bus suspension is for any bus and for all purposes.