

## SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

### LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUR TRANSPORTATION PHILOSOPHY

The Lexington District Four Transportation system exists to provide safe and efficient transportation to and from each child's educational learning environment. Students who have the opportunity to ride district school buses may do so as long as they display behavior that is reasonable and safe. Choosing to engage in unacceptable behavior will result in loss of bus service. As per SC law "Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right."

- Every time a student violates a bus rule raises the chance a driver is distracted.
- Therefore, every time a student violates a bus rule directly raises the chance of a bus being in an accident.

The responsibility for student supervision by the District shall begin when the lights are activated on the bus in the morning and is retained until the child leaves the bus at the end of the day; or until released to the parent/guardian in a manner consistent with guidelines on release of students. Drivers are responsible for student conduct on their bus.

The Student Transportation Code of Conduct, as well as, each school Student Code of Conduct is in effect on the bus and at bus stops. When necessary, the Transportation Supervisor and Assistant Administrator for Transportation will conduct a preliminary investigation for violations of these rules that have occurred on the school bus or at bus stops. All student codes of conduct are in accordance with the Lexington School District Four Board Policy JICDA-R Code of Conduct.

The following information is a guideline for disciplinary actions when rules are violated. These guidelines are subject to change depending upon the severity of the student's actions. The transportation administrator may change the disciplinary consequences so its effective and fair to all stakeholders to ensure a safe, orderly, and effective bus environment. Any violation of District Four school bus policy could be recommended for an expulsion hearing or could be removed from all South Carolina public school buses for the remainder of the school year.

## **Level One: Disorderly Conduct**

Disorderly conduct includes any activity in which a student engages that tends to impede the orderly operation of or disturbs school bus operating procedures or activities.

Acts of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Delaying the operation of the school bus
- Lying to the driver or aide/monitor
- Acting in a manner that is not safety related but that interferes with the operation of the school bus
- Using profanity among other students
- Failing to carry out directions issued by a staff person with supervisory responsibility
- Getting on or off the bus at an unauthorized stop without driver or aide/monitor permission
- Eating or drinking on the bus without driver or aide/monitor permission;
- Standing or sitting improperly while the bus is moving • Pushing, tripping, engaging in general horseplay
- Encouraging others to misbehave
- Defacing/destroying property (under 50 dollars damage student will be responsible for restoring the property before they can ride bus)
- Littering
- Throwing objects out of the bus without inflicting damage/injury
- Refusing to sit in an assigned seat on the bus
- Having hands, arms, head, and so on, out of the bus windows and/or doors when the bus's main passenger loading door is closed; and
- Violating other non-safety-related procedures

Consequences for level one

1st warning

2nd 1 day suspension

3rd 3 day suspension

4th 5 days suspension

5th 10 day suspension

6th 15 day suspension

7th 20 day suspension (Meeting with Transportation Administration before student can ride bus)

8th Accumulation of level one violation will result in automatic suspension from bus school and will result in referral to the District Hearing Officer

### **Level Two: Disruptive Conduct**

Disruptive conduct includes those activities in which student engage that are directed against persons or property and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of themselves or others. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses, justifying both administrative sanctions and court proceedings

. Acts of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Fighting (physical contact)
- Stealing (under 50) student will be responsible for restoring the property
- Making threats against others;
- Defacing property (damage 50-100 dollars student will be responsible for restoring the property before they can ride bus)
- Spitting, harassing, threatening, intimidating, or physically abusing or hitting anyone • Using profanity, abusive language, and/or obscene gestures directed at school official
- Acting in a manner that interferes with the safe operation of the school bus
- Refusing to obey school personnel or agents (such as volunteer aides or chaperons) whose responsibilities include the supervision of students
- Occupying or blocking the school bus in any way with the intent to deprive others of its use;
- Operating an electronic devices radio or other audio device, a video, or other such devices that jeopardies the safety of others

\* Tobacco /Vapors Pipes/ Electronic Cigarettes

- Verbal sexual harassment
- Acting in any other manner that interferes with the safe delivery of student transportation services.
- Blatant refusal to obey a reasonable request of school administrator/ transportation administrator consequence as demanded appropriate by administrator

Consequences for level two

1st 3 day suspension

2nd 5 day suspension

3rd 10 day suspension

4th 15 day suspension

5th 20 day suspension (Meeting with Transportation Administration before student can ride bus)

6th Accumulation of level two violation will result in automatic suspension from bus school and will result in referral to the District Hearing Officer

### **Level 3: Criminal Conduct (add with school)**

Criminal conduct includes those activities in which students engage that result in violence to themselves or to another's person or property or that pose a direct and serious threat to the safety of themselves or others in or around the school bus and at the school bus stop while the bus is present. These activities usually require administrative actions that result not only in the immediate permanent removal of the student from the school bus and the school but also in the intervention of law enforcement authorities and/or in action by the board.

Acts of criminal conduct include, but are not limited to, the following on school-supervised property, equipment (including state- and district-owned school buses) and at school bus stops when the school bus is present:

- Assault and battery, extortion
- A bomb threat or other threat that directly endangers the safety of a person or the school bus;
- The possession, use, or transfer of a weapon;
- Sexual offenses physical (school SRO will be notified)
- The defacement or vandalism of property that results damages over \$100 (student will be responsible for restoring the property)

- The theft, possession, or sale of stolen property (over \$50 student will be responsible for restoring the property)
- Arson or the threat of arson;
- Threat to the bus driver, aide/monitor, a teacher, principal, or the district's design.
- Furnishing, selling, or possessing controlled substances unauthorized substances, as defined by board policy (drugs, narcotics, or poison, prescriptions)
- Violation of the District Drug Policy. (Suspension or expulsion from school and bus) \*The Board adopts the stipulations of the Drug Act passed by the South Carolina Legislature. This act states that it is unlawful for any person to knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance (depressant, stimulant, counterfeit or illegal drug). Any students who violate this act are subject to suspension and/or expulsion from school and prosecution by law enforcement officer.

\* Students are not allowed to knowingly possess, use, transmit, or to be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, nor to knowingly possess, use or transmit paraphernalia related to the illegal use of drugs: on the school grounds during and immediately after school hours; on the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by any school group; OR, off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event. Drug Paraphernalia: Possession is construed to mean on the person himself, in his locker, books, desk, book bag, or any other student property, which at the time is or was on school property. "Paraphernalia" means any instrument,

Consequences for level three Violation will result in automatic suspension from bus /school and could result in referral to the District Hearing Office