

## Bus Conduct Disciplinary Procedures

Disciplinary action for bus misconduct is administered by the local school principal, or his/her designee. School buses are considered an extension of the school campus. All rules governing student conduct while on campus or school property also apply while students are on the school bus. ***Because of the additional safety factors and for the protection of the driver and students on the bus, school principals have the authority to impose an immediate suspension from the school bus for serious offenses as well as for minor violations.***

Students shall be prohibited from using items during the operation of a school bus in a manner which might interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the bus. These items include but are not limited to cell phones; pagers; audible radios; tape or compact disc players without headphones; mirrors; lasers, or flash cameras.

School bus drivers do not discipline students, although they have the prerogative to assign seats or move students from one seat to another to solve a discipline problem or to assure safety for those on the bus. Consequences will occur after the bus driver has communicated verbal and/or written warnings and has tried intervention strategies and the problem continues. Examples of possible consequences are: verbal/written warning, parent conference, public detention, Saturday opportunity school, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or bus suspension.

If a student is found to have engaged in bullying or in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus, the Board shall require a meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials to form a school bus behavior contract for the student.

Copies of all written bus reports will be sent to the parent/guardian. Depending on the severity of the offense, the administrator will place the student on the most appropriate step of the cycle. The bus discipline cycle does not preclude additional sanctions as provided in policy, procedures, school rules, or federal, state, and local laws.

### **Students may be placed directly on step 3, 4, 5, or 6 for major or dangerous offenses such as:**

- Disruptive behavior-fighting, wrestling, scuffling, hazing, harassment, intimidation
- Failure to identify oneself or giving false identification
- Ignition of lighters, matches, etc.
- Insubordination/defiance of authority
- Leaving bus without permission
- Riding bus without permission including when suspended
- Obscene, inappropriate language, gestures, and/or acts
- Sexual misconduct/offenses
- Activating of emergency alarm
- Placing objects or body parts out of the windows when bus is in motion
- Possession of a dangerous instrument
- Smoking, dipping, use of drugs/alcohol, or possession of related products
- Theft/vandalism of school or personal property

**See "Bus Offense Steps" on following page.**

<b>Bus Offense Step:</b>	<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>Middle School</b>	<b>High School</b>
<b>1</b>	Student conference will be held with school administrator or official.	Student may receive consequences as determined by the local school or Fulton County Discipline Cycle.	Student may receive consequences as determined by the local school or Fulton County Discipline Cycle.
<b>2</b>	Student may be placed on bus probation and parent will be notified that on next bus offense student may be suspended from the bus.	Student may receive consequences as determined by the local school or Fulton County Discipline Cycle with parent contact or conference requested.	Student may receive consequences as determined by the local school or Fulton County Discipline Cycle with parent contact or conference requested.
<b>3</b>	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for one (1) or two (2) days with parent contact or notification.	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for one (1) to three (3) days with parent contact or conference requested.	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for three (3) days in addition to consequences determined by the local school or Fulton County Discipline Cycle.
<b>4</b>	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for two (2) or three (3) days with parent conference requested.	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for three (3) to five (5) days with parent contact or conference requested.	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for five (5) days in addition to consequences determined by the local school or Fulton County Discipline Cycle.
<b>5</b>	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for three (3) days with parent conference requested.	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for six (6) to ten (10) days. A conference may be requested with the school official or administrator, parent or guardian, bus driver, and bus supervisor.	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for six (6) to ten (10) days in addition to consequences determined by the local school or Fulton County Discipline Cycle.
<b>6</b>	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for three (3) to five (5) days with parent conference requested before student returns to school and may be referred to an Informal Disciplinary Hearing.	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for ten (10) days in addition to consequences determined by the local school or Fulton County Discipline Cycle and may be referred to a Disciplinary Tribunal Hearing.	Student may be suspended from riding the bus for ten (10) days in addition to consequences determined by the local school or Fulton County Discipline Cycle and may be referred to a Disciplinary Tribunal Hearing.