

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Part of your child's day involves getting to and from school through our transportation system. Your child may also ride a school or activity bus for field trips. In an effort to secure the safety and well-being of all students, the following School Bus Expectations have been established. Please remember that riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right. We also encourage parents to accompany students to their assigned stop. We ask that students wait at their stop 10 minutes prior to the bus stop time. **The bus rules and consequences adhere to the Union County Public Schools Board of Education, Policy 4-3 Code of Student Conduct for elementary, middle, and high school students.**

Bus Expectations

S.T.O.P.

Stand at your assigned stop (10 minutes early).

Turn left and right. Look both ways before crossing.

Observe the stop sign and flashing red lights.

Proceed only when all cars have stopped.

Use appropriate language and keep all body parts to yourself.

- Respect the driver and other students while on the bus.
- Remain seated at all times during the bus ride.
- Eating or drinking on bus (except bottled water) is not permitted on the bus.
- Profanity or fighting is not permitted on the school bus (Code of Conduct #2, #3, #4, #10, and #11).
- Bullying is not permitted on the bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity or while waiting at the bus stop (Code of Conduct #12).

Use or possession of inappropriate objects is not allowed on the school bus.

- Possession or use of weapons is not allowed (Code of Conduct #6).
- Possession of tobacco products or any illegal drugs or alcohol while on the bus or at the bus stop are not allowed (Code of Conduct #9 and #13).
- Please do not vandalize the bus by marking, tearing seats, etc. (Code of Conduct # 8).
- Possession or use of nuisance items is not allowed on the bus (Code of Conduct #14).
- Objects should not be thrown on the bus or from the bus. Students/parents may be responsible for damage to vehicles which may be damaged from objects thrown from bus.
- Animals, oversized projects, plants etc. are not permitted while riding the bus.

The school-based administration reserves the right to discipline students for other acts that disrupt the safe operation of the bus, but are not specifically mentioned above.

Consequences

If your child does not meet the expectations, appropriate action will be taken. Each driver will complete a School Bus Incident Report and submit it to the school administrator. Additional consequences will be based on the Student Code of Conduct for middle school students according to UCPS Board of Education Policy, 4-3.

1ST OFFENSE- Warning issued to student. Parent/Guardian notified.

2ND OFFENSE- Denial of bus privileges up to 3 days depending on severity of offense. Parent/Guardian notified.

3RD OFFENSE- Denial of bus privileges up to 5 days depending on severity of offense. Parent/Guardian notified.

4TH OFFENSE- Denial of bus privileges up to 10 days depending on severity of offense. Parent/Guardian notified.

5TH OFFENSE- Denial of bus privileges up to 20 days depending on severity of offense.
Parent/Guardian notified.
6TH OFFENSE- Removal of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.
Parent/Guardian notified.

The principal may "skip" initial steps of discipline and move to more stringent steps if severity of the offense justifies more severe consequences.

Actions involving exceptional children will be taken in compliance with exceptional children's guidelines and procedures

Principals may use discretion and grant a child's bus privileges be restored if all parties involved agree to a written contract and specific steps and consequences for future inappropriate school bus behavior

Written notification of consequences shall be provided to the student's assigned bus driver.

Unauthorized Passengers

We also would like to remind all parents that North Carolina General Statute states that no unauthorized passengers may board a school bus. If you have questions for the bus driver, please speak to them from outside the bus, or contact their immediate supervisor. The statute reads as follows:

§ 14-132.2. Willfully trespassing upon, damaging, or impeding the progress of a public school bus.

(a) Any person who shall unlawfully and willfully demolish, destroy, deface, injure, burn or damage any public school bus or public school activity bus shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(b) Any person who shall enter a public school bus or public school activity bus after being forbidden to do so by the authorized school bus driver in charge thereof, or the school principal to whom the public school bus or public school activity bus is assigned, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(c) Any occupant of a public school bus or public school activity bus who shall refuse to leave said bus upon demand of the authorized driver in charge thereof, or upon demand of the principal of the school to which said bus is assigned, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(c1) Any person who shall unlawfully and willfully stop, impede, delay, or detain any public school bus or public school activity bus being operated for public school purposes shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.