

# WCSS Bus Transportation Requirements for 2018-2019



A new school year is about to begin on August 13, 2018, and Worth County Schools wants parents and students to know that there will be some changes in the behavior expectations of the students riding the buses. Student safety is the number one priority of WCSS and students and parents are reminded that riding a school bus is an extension of the school day, and that students are expected to follow the same rules of respect and following directions as they are in the school building.

Riding a school bus is a privilege that the school district does not want to see any student lose; however, unruly, misbehaving students will be removed from the busses to protect the safety of all students. Students that ride the school bus must go by these rules in order to ride the bus. We want our drivers to be able to focus on the road ahead as well as student loading and unloading zones rather than being distracted due to student behavior.

According to the National Highway Safety Transportation Administration (NHSTA), a school bus is the safest vehicle on the road. NHSTA also states students are about 70 times more likely to get to school safely when taking a school bus instead of traveling by car. It is the mission of WCSS Transportation Department to ensure that our busses are the safest on the road!

We want to inform the parents of the following rules that were approved by the School Board:

1. At no time will students act toward or address comments to a bus driver or monitor in a disrespectful manner or refuse to cooperate with the driver.
2. Students shall get on or off the bus only at their assigned stop/route, unless otherwise directed with a note from the school office. Students riding a route other than what has been assigned will be returned to the school for the parent/guardian to pick them up.
3. Students shall not refuse to sit in an assigned seat or deny another person a place to sit.
4. Students will be expected to remain seated for the duration of the trip, and remain seated until the bus door opens. No students will stand in the driver compartment.
5. Students shall not throw any articles within the bus or out the bus window, and shall not extend any part of their body, clothing, or other articles out of the bus window.
6. Students shall not take or handle any emergency equipment inside the bus, and shall never board or leave the bus through the emergency door except in an emergency.
7. Students shall never attempt to operate the passenger door except in cases of extreme emergency.
8. Students shall not yell, scream, whistle, or operate an electronic device to a point where it interferes with the safe operation of the school bus.

9. Students shall not write upon, disfigure, or destroy any part of the school bus. The parent or guardian may be held responsible for any damages to the school bus.
10. The use of obscene, vulgar, or profane language are forbidden.
11. Students shall not carry tobacco, weapons, explosives (such as fireworks), knives, pointed articles, animals (pets), intoxicating beverages, drug paraphernalia or drugs on the bus.
12. Large items will not be transported on the school bus. The driver has the discretion to allow certain larger than normal items which could be placed at the front of the bus. Items should be no larger than what could rest in students' lap. Balloons are prohibited. Arrangements can be made with the parent or guardian and school staff for the pickup of large items.
13. Students shall not eat, drink, or litter on the bus.
14. Students shall arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled time. Students shall remain off road at all times. Students shall stand twelve feet back from the roadway in an orderly group and not approach the bus until the door has opened, red stop lights flashing and the stop sign are activated and until the bus has come to a complete stop. Always be careful watching the driver in case of emergency. If a student drops an item while crossing, signal the driver with a waving motion of your hands. Wait for the driver to signal back before you pick the item up.
15. Students loading the bus at the school bus loop should use care, be prompt, and ready to board without horse play. Buses will not return to transport students that are horse playing etc. to transport the student. School Administration will notify the parent or guardian to come transport the student. Depending on the circumstances, the Transportation Director or his designee may authorize the bus driver to return to the school for a student that has missed the bus.
16. All students living on the left side of the roadway shall exit the bus and move to a point 12 feet in front of the right bumper and wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross. Students shall never cross behind the bus.
17. Students shall face forward for the duration of the trip shall keep their feet on the floor in front of them and out of the bus aisle.
18. Students will abide by the individual school's rules and regulations concerning bus students.
19. Serious offenses are defined but not limited to those listed above.
20. Rough housing, scuffling, pushing, shoving, and fighting is strictly prohibited. Law enforcement, school administration, and or the transportation director may authorize the removal of students from the bus.
21. **Be silent** at railroad crossings. **Do Not** distract the driver.
22. Be courteous to the driver and other students.

23. All rules apply on field trips as they do on a regular school day.
24. Emergency drills will be conducted each year. Student participation is required.
25. The Director or Assistant Transportation Director are authorized to alter routes, reassign students and authorize the removal of a disruptive student.

## **STEPS AND CONSEQUENCES FOR IMPROPER CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUS**

A bus conduct report is written and forwarded to the Director of Transportation. The Director of Transportation scans a copy of all referrals to the Student Services Coordinator for action. The student's parent or guardian copy of the report will be issued to the student.

The consequences for misbehavior on the bus for Worth County Elementary School students are listed below. Bus riding privileges may be revoked by the Administration of the Worth County School District.

### Note:

- Worth County Schools has the authority to skip steps for serious violations or to designate such other punishment as deemed appropriate.
- If your child needs to be picked up or dropped off at a different location, please send a written note with your child to your child's school. The bus driver will be made aware of the change by school administration.
- Any complaints in reference to concern with you children on the bus can be made to the Student Services Coordinator, Mrs. Sandi Giddens, 229-776-8600.
- If there are any complaints or concerns in reference to the bus driver, a formal written complaint should be submitted to Rusty Parten, Director of Transportation. The **WCSD Transportation Complaint Form** can be found at [www.worthschools.net](http://www.worthschools.net) under the Transportation tab, or forms can be picked up at each school or the bus shop.

## **WCES Bus Discipline Consequences:**

1st Offense - Warning/Parent Contact

2nd Offense - 3 day bus suspension

3rd Offense - 5-10 day bus suspension

4th Offense - 15-20 day bus Suspension

\*Administrator discretion for all bus referrals