

School Bus Program	F.26
<i>Adopted: July 23, 2013</i>	

The Hilldale Board of Education believes that the purpose of maintaining and operating school bus transportation as a part of the general school program is to provide reasonably safe and adequate transportation to and from school and on those auxiliary trips the board approves.

The board shall provide school bus transportation to those students who live outside a reasonable walking distance of school and at any future designated pick-up points. The provision of school bus transportation is not a right of students, but is a privilege extended by the board of education. Because the potential for property damage and personal injury is great, strict adherence to bus rules and regulations shall be required.

Student Conduct on School Busses

School transportation is a privilege provided for the convenience and safety of the students. Undesirable conduct by the students can create a very dangerous situation. It may not only cause someone to be injured inside the bus, but could lead to a collision with another vehicle. If the driver is distracted by student behavior, any of the above could result. Quietly visiting with the student sitting next to him/her is permissible.

Students shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with good classroom behavior while waiting for and traveling on buses. There is to be no loud talking or moving about while on the bus. Students must not shout, sign or otherwise cause any disturbance that may distract the driver. Students should keep absolutely quiet when the bus is approaching railroad tracks from any direction to enable the driver to hear emergency and train signals. Students are to obey the request of the driver the same as they would a teacher. Consumption of food or beverages is prohibited on the school bus.

Windows must remain closed unless the driver permits them to be opened. No one is to put any part of his/her body out a window or throw any objects out of a bus window. Hands and feet are to be kept out of aisle. Any object carried on the bus is to be held in the student's lap or placed where the driver requests. High School students that depart the bus at the elementary school shall not enter the building.

Entering the bus:

Students must board the bus at designated bus stops, if any, and at school bus boarding areas on school premises. Students must stand back and remain orderly until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver gives boarding permission. Then line up in order to enter the bus single file with no pushing or shoving. Once inside the bus, go directly to a seat and sit down.

Seats may be assigned at the driver's discretion. If the driver has assigned a student a seat, that is the seat he/she is required to sit in. The driver will be the judge as to how many should be in each seat. Seats are not to be held for a student who enters at a later stop, and everyone is expected to share seats. Passengers must be seated

immediately. Seats may not be held for later passengers and must be shared when necessary.

Departing the bus:

Students waiting at the elementary school until school dismissal must remain on the bus. All students are required to remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop. When the bus stops, students who get off at that stop are to depart single file as quickly as possible and get away from the bus. If a student must cross the street he/she is to quickly walk approximately ten steps in front of the bus and wait for the driver to signal when it is safe for him/her to cross. **NEVER WALK BEHIND A SCHOOL BUS.** All students are to get off the bus at a school or at their regular stop. The school bus will not move until the student can be observed by the driver.

Possible Disciplinary Consequences for Bus Misconduct

- First offense per semester: Upon the first offense of unacceptable conduct, the principal will notify the student and parent. The principal will take whatever action he or she deems necessary.
- Second offense per semester: Student will be placed on probation and parents notified. Detention may be assigned.
- Third offense per semester: Upon the third offense, the principal will notify the student and the parents that the student is suspended from bus riding privileges for five days.
- Fourth offense per semester: Upon the fourth offense, the principal will notify the student and parent that the student is suspended from riding for the equivalent of one semester.

The principal has the authority to deviate from this disciplinary action schedule on a case by case basis.

Defacing a School Bus

Any student caught writing on a bus, tearing or cutting a seat, tearing off padding or defacing a bus in any manner will be suspended immediately from riding a school bus. Parents of such students are liable for damages.

- First offense for defacing a school bus: This will be a mandatory suspension from riding the bus for a period of time to be determined by the principal and payment of damages in full.
- Second offense for defacing a school bus: This will be a mandatory suspension from riding the school bus for the remainder of the school year and full payment of damages.