



BALD EAGLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bus Discipline Policy

Student conduct and driver authority

A student who cannot maintain self-discipline while using transportation facilities forfeits this privilege and must rely on other means of transportation. The school bus driver is authorized to enforce safety and social standards on the bus and, in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, has the same authority as a teacher. The relationship between the driver and student must be cooperative.

Reporting violations

The driver reports all violations to the appropriate school office using a Bus Driver Report form. The school office sends a violation report to the parents of the students involved. Bus drivers may also contact parents about the violation; these contacts should be noted on the driver's report form.

Use of video cameras

Video cameras may be used to ensure that student behavior on school buses is consistent with Transportation and Safety guidelines. All riders and their parents are notified that cameras may be present. A notice is also placed in each vehicle when camera housing is installed. Video cameras are used only to document misbehavior.

Review and retention of recordings

Review of videotapes is limited to the Superintendent, Superintendent's designee, Safety and Security Coordinator, School Police Officer, Director of Transportation, High School Principal, Assistant High School Principal, Elementary Principal, Head Teachers, and Bus Contractors.

Video documentation of misbehavior is retained only until the disciplinary action or disposition is satisfied. All recorded evidence of the misbehavior is then erased.

Parent or guardian requests to view recordings

A parent or guardian may be granted permission to view a videotape only if it is the basis for disciplinary action. Requests must be addressed to the Director of Transportation. Parents may view only the portion that documents their child's alleged misbehavior on the bus.

Additional discipline information

The following page lists examples of minor and major violations and the procedures that will be followed. Elementary and secondary discipline policies provide additional information on disciplinary sanctions. This information is also available in the Student Handbook.

Minor violations

- Insubordination to the bus driver.
- Refusing to sit in the assigned seat.
- Standing or changing seats while the bus is in motion.
- Discourteous behavior toward other children or the bus driver.
- Crowding the door before the bus stops.
- Pushing and jostling when getting on or off the bus.
- Spraying anything with any type of smell.
- Other offenses as defined in building-level policy.

Procedures for minor violations

Offense	Required action
First	Written warning by the bus driver, referral to building administration, and disciplinary action by category.
Second	Suspension from daily transportation for three (3) days and disciplinary action by category.
Third	Suspension from daily transportation for five (5) days and disciplinary action by category.

Major violations

- Fighting on the bus.
- Smoking, vaping, or using tobacco in any form.
- Damaging or destroying bus property.
- Throwing any objects.
- Striking matches or cigarette lighters; lighting fireworks or other incendiary devices.
- Any conduct that endangers students' lives or distracts the bus driver.
- Offensive language and/or obscene gestures.
- Possession or use of a controlled substance.
- Other offenses as defined in building-level policy.
- Tampering with or altering video or audio equipment on buses.

Procedures for major violations

Suspension	Required action
First	Three (3) days of suspension from daily school transportation, a parent conference, and disciplinary action by category.
Second	Five (5) days of suspension from daily school transportation, a parent conference, and disciplinary action by category.
Third	Ten (10) days of suspension from daily school transportation and disciplinary action by category.

Parents are responsible for transporting students who are suspended from riding school buses. Compulsory school attendance laws remain in effect during the bus suspension.