

4.19 TRANSPORTATION POLICY

It is the purpose of the Berryville Public Schools Transportation Department to provide students who live within the Berryville School District safe and timely transportation. To assist us in achieving this goal, we depend on parental support and cooperation to help students understand the rules and expectations of riding the bus and the consequences of misbehavior. It is a privilege to ride a school bus. It is not a right.

CONDUCT TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

The District's Student code of conduct applies to students while traveling to and from school or to and from a school activity to the same extent as if the students were on school grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate student code of conduct rules.

The preceding paragraph also applies to student conduct while on school buses. Students shall be instructed in safe riding practices. The driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus until every passenger is seated. In addition to other disciplinary measures provided for violations of the District's Student Code of Conduct, the student's bus transportation privileges may be suspended or terminated for violations of the Student Code of Conduct related to bus behavior.

Date Adopted: 7/2022

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-19-119(b)

Ark. Division of Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules Governing Maintenance and Operations of Ark. Public School Buses and Physical Examinations of School Bus Drivers 4.0

Additional Reference: ASBA Model Policies

Students are eligible to receive District bus transportation if they meet the requirements. Please see the Transportation Procedures section of the student handbook below. The transportation to and from school of students who have lost their bus transportation privileges is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

To be eligible to ride a Berryville School bus, students must meet the following criteria:

- Currently reside within Berryville School boundaries
- Please request bus service using only one method to expedite your request. You may phone your schools office or the transportation office or in person at your school's office
- Bus service may be started at any point during the school year upon request for eligible students. Bus service may end after three consecutive days with no

student at the bus stop.

- Your student will be allowed to ride home with a friend if a note from the school office is provided and includes the name of your student, the name of the student your child is riding home with, your signature, and your contact number.
- Reside within the attendance zone for the school they attend.
- Reside outside the non-transport zone assigned for their school attendance zone.
- Abide by the Basic Rules, Safety Rules, and Severe Rules for Bus Riders.
- Abide by the Bus Stop Location Guidelines.
- Abide by the Student Guidelines at the Bus Stop.
- Any transportation changes must be made and approved by 2:30 pm.

Bus Stop Location Guidelines:

- All stop locations must be approved by the Transportation Office.
- All stop locations are subject to review and change of location as determined by the Transportation Office.
- The distance between a child's bus stop and their home may be up to six tenths (.6) of a mile which is equal to about 5 to 7 city blocks.
- Bus stops will be spaced no less than 300 feet apart unless approved otherwise by the Transportation Office.

Student Guidelines at the Bus Stop:

- Arrive at least 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus.
- Wait off the roadway at least 10 feet.
- Be visible to the driver at the bus stop.
- Students must not wait inside a car, home, or garage. All students are required to be physically standing outside and at the bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled time of arrival.
- Approach the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver has opened the door.
- Students crossing the street/roadway at a bus stop must cross 10 feet in front of the bus as they get on and off the bus.
- When crossing the street/roadway to board the bus, wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver has stopped all traffic.
- Students must watch the bus driver and wait until the bus driver gives a signal for the students to cross the roadway to board the bus.
- Students will be picked up and dropped off only at their assigned stop unless they have a note from the school office.
- If a student misses the bus, the parent will be responsible for transporting the student to school. The bus will not return to pick up your student.
- If a student misses the bus that student will not be allowed to board the bus at

- a stop later in the route.
- If your child is not prepared to board when the bus arrives he/she may be subject to disciplinary action.
- Kindergarten students will not be dropped off without a parent or guardian present. A parent, guardian, or older sibling is required to accept their kindergarten student.

Behavior at the Bus Stop:

- Students are expected to avoid any horseplay and respect the property of all others while they wait at the bus stop.
- Students are expected to observe the same behavior at the bus stop as they are expected to on any school campus.
- Elementary students should be accompanied to and from the bus stop by a parent/guardian and remain with the student while waiting for the bus to arrive.

Inclement Weather – Transportation:

In the event of inclement weather, Berryville Schools may choose to run limited bus routes. The pick-up and drop-off times and locations will be developed by transportation. Even if you are not in an area prone to travel problems, often the bus routes include areas that may pose a challenge to bus transportation. Please be timely upon arrival at the designated pick up location. Buses will not be able to return for those running late. Your student will be returned to the same location for the afternoon route. If you are unable to meet the bus at the drop off site your student will be returned to the school that he/she attends. Regular bus service will resume as soon as it is determined that all routes can be run safely in their entirety.

Passing of School Buses

(a) When a school bus stops and displays its alternating red warning lights for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers, every operator of a motor vehicle or motorcycle meeting or overtaking the school bus from any direction shall bring the motor vehicle or motorcycle to a complete stop not less than thirty feet (30') before reaching the school bus.

(b) The operator of the motor vehicle or motorcycle shall not start up or attempt to pass in any direction until the school bus has finished receiving or discharging its passengers and is in motion again.

(c) A violation of this section includes the failure of the operator of a motor vehicle or motorcycle to comply with subsection (a) or subsection (b) of this section while operating the motor vehicle or motorcycle upon:

- (1) A public road, street, or highway;
- (2) Private or public property open to the general public; or
- (3) A private or public road, driveway, or parking lot belonging to a kindergarten

through grade twelve (K-12) private or public school.

(d) If the operator of a motor vehicle or motorcycle fails to comply with subsection (a) or subsection (b) of this section while demonstrating a reckless disregard for the safety of the passengers of the school bus, the operator upon conviction is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

A.C.A. § 27-51-1004

Please see transportation procedures on our bobcat page.

Transportation Offenses and Penalties:

Category	Examples of Infractions	1st Referral	2nd Referral	3rd Referral	4th Referral	5th Referral
A Minor Misconduct	Boarding or exiting the bus unsafely (includes crossing in front of or behind the bus); standing while bus is in operation or not being properly seated; obstructing an empty seat, door, stairs or aisle; making excessive noise; disturbing, insulting, or harassing other students; public display of affection (PDA); eating, drinking, chewing gum; using profane or obscene language or gestures; littering; any action that causes disturbances or distractions	Oral / Written Warning s	Up to 5-day Bus Suspension	Up to 10-day Bus Suspension	Up to 20-day Bus Suspension	Suspension of riding privileges for remaining school year
Serious Infractions	Failure to comply (disrespectful, talking back, lying) with bus driver or other adult's instruction; horseplay and spitting; throwing objects at, within, or out of bus; sticking objects or body parts out of the window/door; damage, theft, or pilfering < \$100; spraying or application of cologne / fragrances; misuse of electronic devices, cell phones, cameras etc.	Up to 5-day Bus Suspension	Up to 10-day Bus Suspension	Up to 20-day Bus Suspension	Suspension of riding privileges for remaining school year	
C Severe Offenses	Full or partial nudity; sitting in driver's seat/tampering with controls or equipment, interfering with driver; fighting/Assault (or hitting, biting, pushing); vandalism, damages, or theft > \$100; tobacco use or possession	Up to 10-day Bus Suspension	Up to 20-day Bus Suspension	Suspension of riding privileges for remaining school year		

D Criminal or Illegal Acts	Any action that leads to a bus accident; possession or use of weapons or other prohibited items (including laser lights); lewd or indecent acts; possession of illegal substances; threatening or causing injury to another person (bullying and/or harassment); alcohol use or possession; bomb threat or terroristic threat	School Suspension / Expulsion Proceedings Initiated Discipline Report Submitted to Appropriate Authorities
1 – All rule infractions are cumulative in most cases for the school year. A series of minor infractions may result in serious consequences. 2 – All misconduct must be evaluated on a case by case basis. The administration reserves the right to escalate the consequences due to the severity, frequency, or previous warnings. 3 – Possession of weapons, prohibited items, controlled substances or representations of controlled substances, alcohol, or other serious incidents will be reported to the appropriate authorities and may result in suspension or expulsion from school in addition to loss of bus privileges. 4 – Restitution may be required for all damages resulting from student action including but not limited to vandalism, fighting, theft, throwing objects, or other damages.		