

Bus Conduct Rules & Regulations

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Most of our students ride the bus to and from school. Bus schedules, including the route number, bus stops, and pick up times are distributed before school begins in the fall. Busing information can also be found on our website. The complete text of the Student Bus Conduct Rules and Regulations listed here are also sent home with each student in the first day student packet.

- The bus driver is in full charge of the bus and the students. All students choosing to ride Vashon Island School District transportation will obey the driver promptly and willingly.
- Failure to follow bus rules and regulations will result in parent/guardian contact and possible loss of transportation services.
- Any exceptions to student conduct expectations outlined here must be approved by school officials.

Student Conduct Expectations

- Students shall ride their regularly assigned bus at all times, unless permission has been granted by the school authorities. School authorities should verify with the driver the availability of extra seating space and should not issue bus passes for non-regular riders if it will cause standees on the bus. Groups may ride another bus for the purpose of a meeting, birthday party, class, etc. on a *space available* basis only with advance permission of school authorities.
- Unless by written permission of school authorities, no student shall be permitted to leave the bus except at the student's regular stop.
- Students may be assigned a seat in which the student will be seated at all times, unless permission to change is given by the school principal and/or driver.
- Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct must be observed.
- Students shall not smoke or light any combustible materials on or around the bus.
- No student shall open a window on the school bus without first getting permission from the school bus driver.
- No students shall at any time extend their head, hands, or arms out of the windows, whether the school bus is in motion or standing still.
- Students may not have anything in their possession that could possibly cause injury to another, such as sticks, breakable containers, and any type of firearms, straps or pins extending from their clothing.
- Animals are not permitted on the bus, except for "service" dogs.
- Students must ensure that their books and personal belongings are kept out of the aisle. Special permission must be granted by school authorities to transport any large items. Sports equipment, including skateboards, lacrosse equipment, etc., must be fully contained in a sports bag.
- No student will be allowed to talk to the driver more than is necessary.
- No pupil shall sit in the driver's seat, nor shall any student be to the immediate left or right of the driver.
- Students are to remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Students must leave the bus in an orderly manner and must follow the orders of the school safety person on bus duty. Students cannot cross the highway until given consent by the driver and then only in front, never behind, the bus.
- Students must not stand or play in the roadway while waiting for the bus arriving at the stop 5 minutes before the bus is due. Students will not push, shove or fight at the bus stop.
- The use of loud, abusive or vulgar language and gestures is prohibited.
- Students needing to walk some distance along a highway to the bus loading zone, where practicable, must walk on the left-hand side of the roadway, facing oncoming traffic. This applies to leaving the bus zone in the afternoon.
- Students' misconduct on a bus will be sufficient reason to discontinue providing bus transportation to the student involved. Parents are responsible for transportation if riding privileges are discontinued.
- Emergency exits: Emergency doors shall be used only in the case of emergencies and emergency

- exit drills. In the event of an actual emergency, exit drills as practiced will be followed.
- Parents of students damaging school buses will be responsible for payment of damages to First Student.
 - Students shall not to run errands, or make unauthorized ventures, before or after exiting the bus. They must go directly to or from their place of residence.

Disciplinary Actions

In the case of discipline referral from the bus driver, the student will conference with the building administrator and parents will be notified.

- FIRST: Student warned of consequences of a second offense. Other consequences may include detention or public service.
- SECOND: Student will lose all bus riding privileges for a minimum of one school day.
- THIRD: Student will lose all bus riding privileges for a minimum of five school days.
- FOURTH: Student will lose all bus riding privileges for a minimum of ten school days.
- FIFTH: Student will lose all bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.

Exceptional Misconduct

A student may lose all bus riding privileges immediately if behavior falls under the definition of Exceptional Misconduct per state law, district policies and/or school disciplinary codes. (WAC 392-145-035 Rules for Students Riding Buses; School Board Policies 3240, Student Conduct; 3300, Correction Action; 8123, Student Conduct on Buses).

Parents/Guardians and/or students have the right to review and appeal decisions regarding disciplinary action exercised.