

Bus Conduct Policy

Lake Washington School District's school bus conduct policy and rules are in accordance with Washington State WAC's and RCW's, all of which will be enforced whether or not they are included in the following regulations. These regulations are designed to assure every student safe transportation to and from school and school sponsored activities. Violation of these rules may be sufficient reason to discontinue bus-riding privileges for the student involved, and in certain cases could cause suspension from school. The bus driver has authority and responsibility for the behavior of passengers using school district transportation. Teachers, coaches, other certified staff members, or chaperones assigned to accompany students on buses have primary responsibility for the behavior of students in charge. However, the bus driver shall have final authority and responsibility.

Safety Rules and Regulations for Riding a School Bus

- Cooperate and obey the driver at all times.
- Be courteous, use no profane language-spoken, written, or gestured.
- Students must ride their regularly assigned buses at all times unless written permission has been granted by the school office.
- Each student may be assigned a seat in which they must be seated at all times.
- Food or beverage must not be consumed on the bus except by permission of the driver.
- Tobacco, alcohol, drugs or other illegal substances and paraphernalia are prohibited.
- Objects that are dangerous or that may cause injury to another person are strictly prohibited from being brought on the school bus. Please see RCW9.41.250 for definition.
- Windows may be opened 6 inches. However, the driver may require the windows be closed at his/her discretion.
- Students must keep their head, hands, feet, and belongings inside the bus at all times.
- Animals (except official service dogs) are prohibited from being transported on the bus.
- Belongings of students must be kept out of the aisle.
- Students must be seated and remain seated while the bus is starting, stopping, or otherwise in motion.
- Students must enter and exit the bus safely, crossing only in front of the bus and only with the consent of the driver.

Penalties for Infractions of Established Bus Rules

Student misconduct on the bus or at the bus stop is sufficient reason to discontinue bus transportation privileges to those students involved. Infractions accumulate for the duration of the school year and may include any combination of the following:

- **1st Infraction**-Warning or detention. A bus riding suspension may occur if the incident is considered a serious offense*. Procedure: A meeting may be called with the driver, school administration, and parents/guardian to discuss the incident and determine corrective measures. If the incident presents immediate danger to the student or others, assigned seating, alternative transportation and/or suspension may be possible.
- **Repeat Infractions**- Warning or detention. A conference with parent/guardian and/or bus driver will be held. A bus riding suspension may occur if the incident is considered a serious offense*.

Procedure: A meeting with the driver and/or school administration, special education services, and parents/guardian will be held. The IEP may be reviewed and updated. Suspension of transportation services, change of bus route, assignment of a monitor, alternative transportation, and counseling may be considered as action required.

***Serious Offense:** May result in immediate suspension of bus-riding privileges for the balance of the school year. (Weapons, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, harassment/bullying, or fighting while on the bus or at the bus stop are serious infractions.)

Suspension will begin at the beginning of the next school day after the misconduct has occurred. In other words, the student transported to school may be returned his/her regular stop. Students may resume their bus riding privileges as soon as all disciplinary obligations have been met.

Appeal Procedure

Parents/guardians of student who wish to appeal a suspension may submit a request to the school administration.