



DeKalb County School System Bus Rules / Regulations

The following rules and regulations insure the safest, most enjoyable and efficient transportation for all students.

Jimmy Sprague, Director of Transportation

1. Students must be at bus stop on time. Students should be at bus stop at least 5 minutes before bus arrives. Bus operates on a fixed schedule.
2. While waiting at the bus stop, students must wait on sidewalk, driveway, or as far off traveled portion of the road as possible.
3. Students must wait in an orderly manner and wait until bus comes to a complete stop before approaching the bus.
4. If it is necessary to cross street or roadway, students must wait until driver signals them to cross and cross the street or roadway 10-15 feet in front of the bus to ensure that the driver sees them.
5. Students must enter bus single file and be seated as quickly as possible.
6. Upon leaving the bus, wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before standing to exit. Standing is not permitted on a moving bus.
7. Exit single file in an orderly manner and walk away from the bus.
8. Upon leaving the bus, cross road in front of bus and never behind bus, make sure all traffic stops.
9. The bus driver shall be responsible for the order and conduct of the pupils transported.
10. The bus driver has the responsibility to assign seats and will be directed to do so as a matter of policy.
11. Pupils should obey promptly and willingly any reasonable directive of the driver.
12. Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct is to be observed, vulgar language or gestures are not permitted. The school bus is an extension to the classroom.
13. Pupils must remain seated with feet on the floor in front of them; not in the aisle or draped over the seat back. Students must sit facing forward while the bus is in motion as if they were wearing seatbelts.
14. Students may not board or depart from a bus at any other stop than that which has been properly authorized by parents or school authorities.

15. Pupils will not extend hands, arms, heads or objects from the bus window at any time.
16. Pupils are not permitted to shout, or gesture to passing vehicles or pedestrians from the bus.
17. Students may adjust windows only when permitted to do so by the bus driver.
18. Pupils may not throw any object including trash or paper from within or out of the bus while waiting for, riding, or after leaving the bus. A trash can is usually provided.
19. Pupils must never sit in driver's seat, doghouse, or step area and never tamper with any operating equipment.
20. Pupils may not exit from the emergency door unless directed to do so by the bus driver.
21. **EATING AND DRINKING FOOD AND BEVERAGES ON THE BUS IS PROHIBITED.** Neither food nor liquids are permitted on the bus except in school lunch bags or lunch pails.
22. The use of tobacco, drugs or alcohol in any form shall not be permitted on the bus.
23. Animals, knives, matches, lighters, flowers, balloons, hats and caps, radios , CD players, firearms including cap and water pistols, explosives, glass and other similar items creating a safety hazard are not permitted on the bus. Necessary schoolbooks and backpacks are permitted. Other items can and will be taken away from pupils at drivers discretion. **(CELL PHONES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON BUSES. THEY WILL BE TAKEN UP BY BUS DRIVER AND TURNED IN TO STUDENTS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND DEALT WITH BY BOARD POLICY.)**
24. Students needing to ride any bus other than their regular assigned bus must give a note from their principal or parent. **(NO NOTE NO RIDE BY BOARD POLICY.)**
25. Students desiring to take another student home with them who does not normally ride a particular bus must obtain prior permission from the bus driver or authorization from their principal to assure the bus is not overloaded.
26. Teachers, coaches especially sponsors of activity trips need to be aware of bus regulations.
27. Absolute quiet is required at railroad crossings. The driver will turn off all radios, fans; heaters etc. and illuminate the dome light to aware students to be quiet. This is a requirement of the State of Tennessee, Pupil Transportation Division, and DeKalb County School Bus System.
28. Any vandalism to the interior or exterior of the bus is prohibited and will require payments for amount of damage along with bus suspension.
29. Fighting, hitting, pinching, etc. is not permitted and will be dealt with accordingly.
30. All DeKalb County School Buses are equipped with Silent Witness camera systems. These cameras record at all times and video will be used as needed to settle misbehavior problems on the bus.

PENALTY OF MISBEHAVIOR IS AT THE DISCRETION OF PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL WHERE STUDENT ATTENDS. VIOLATIONS WILL BE HANDLED BY A SCHOOLWIDE POLICY PROCEDURE.

