

Bus Conduct

In order to help ensure the safety and well-being of students, bus drivers, and others, the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) expects students to exhibit appropriate and orderly conduct at all times when using school transportation, including while preparing to ride, riding, or leaving the bus.

The County Superintendent or designee shall establish regulations related to student conduct on buses, bus driver authority, and the suspension of riding privileges. S/he shall make these rules available to parents/guardians, students, and other interested parties.

Students found to be in violation of SCOE's bus conduct rules shall be subject to discipline in accordance with SCOE policy and administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee may deny a student the privilege of using school transportation upon the student's continued disorderly conduct or his/her persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver.

Bus Surveillance Systems

SCOE believes that the use of surveillance systems on school buses will help to deter misconduct and improve discipline, ensure the safety of students and bus drivers, and prevent vandalism. Therefore, surveillance systems may be installed and used on school buses to monitor student behavior while traveling to and from school and school activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students, parents/guardians, and staff that surveillance may occur on any school bus and that the contents of a recording may be a student record and, as such, may be used in student disciplinary proceedings or referred to local law enforcement, as appropriate. In addition, a prominent notice shall be placed in each bus stating that the bus is equipped with a surveillance monitoring system.

The Superintendent or designee shall monitor the use and maintenance of SCOE's bus surveillance system. Students are prohibited from tampering with the bus surveillance system. Any student found tampering with the system shall be subject to discipline and shall be responsible for the costs of any necessary repairs or replacement.

The content of any recording is a student record and may only be accessed in accordance with SCOE's policy and administrative regulation concerning student records.

Bus Rider Rules

The following rules apply at all times when students are riding a school bus, including when on school activity trips:

1. Riders shall follow the instructions and directions of the bus driver at all times.
2. Riders should arrive at their designated bus stop on time and stand in a safe place at the stop to wait quietly for the bus.
3. Riders shall enter the bus in an orderly manner and go directly to their seats.
4. Riders shall sit down and fasten any passenger restraint systems. Riders shall remain seated while the bus is in motion.
5. Riders shall not block the aisle or emergency exit with their body or personal belongings. Riders may bring large or bulky items, such as class projects or musical instruments, on the bus only if the item does not displace any other rider or obstruct the driver's vision.

Policy 5131.1 (Continued)

6. Riders should be courteous to the driver and to fellow passengers. Vulgarity, rude, or abusive behavior is prohibited.
7. Any noise or behavior that could distract the driver, such as loud talking, scuffling, or fighting, throwing objects, or standing, or changing seats, is prohibited and may lead to suspension of riding privileges.
8. Riders shall not use tobacco products, eat, or drink while riding the bus.
9. Riders may bring electronic devices onto the bus only if such devices are permitted at school. If the use of cellular telephones or similar devices disrupts the safe operation of the school bus, the bus driver may direct the student to no longer use the device on the bus.
10. Riders shall not put any part of the body out of the window nor throw any item from the bus.
11. Riders shall help keep the bus and the area around the bus stop clean. Riders shall not damage or deface the bus or tamper with bus equipment.
12. Service animals are permitted on school transportation services; all other animals are prohibited. (Education Code 39839; 13 CCR 1216)
13. Upon reaching their destination, riders shall remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and upon the signal from the driver, unfasten any restraint system, enter the aisle, and go directly to the exit.
14. Riders should be alert for traffic when leaving the bus and shall follow the district's transportation safety plan when crossing the road and exiting the bus.

The driver or any passenger shall report any violation of SCOE's bus rules to the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the misbehavior, determine the severity of the misconduct, and take action accordingly. In instances of a severe violation or repeated offenses, the rider may be denied transportation for a period of time determined appropriate by the principal or designee.

Bus drivers shall not deny transportation services except as directed by the principal or designee.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 35160 Authority of governing boards
- 39800 Transportation
- 39839 Transportation of guide dogs, signal dogs, service dogs
- 44808 Duty to supervise conduct of students
- 48900 Grounds for suspension and expulsion
- 48918 Expulsion procedures
- 49060-49079 Student records
- 49073-49079 Privacy of student records

GOVERNMENT CODE

- 6253-6270 California Public Records Act

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 14103 Authority of the driver

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

- 1200-1228 General provisions, school bus regulations

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

- 1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Policy 5131.1 (Continued)

Legal Reference: (Continued)

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy

Policy Cross-Reference:

0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan

3452 School Bus Drivers

3515 Campus Security

3515.4 Recovery for Property Loss or Damage

3516 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan

3540 Transportation

3541 Transportation Routes and Services

3541.2 Transportation for Students with Disabilities

3542 School Bus Drivers

3543 Transportation Safety and Emergencies

5125 Student Records

5125.1 Release of Directory Information

5131 Conduct

5131.5 Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti

5131.62 Tobacco

5144 Discipline

5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

6163.2 Animals at School