

BUS DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Each day, the McIntosh County School System provides safe and timely school bus services for under 1000 students on two special and 17 regular bus routes. Transportation is also provided for a variety of school-related activities.

To transport our children safely and efficiently, we ask that everyone share in the task. Please appreciate the tremendous responsibility placed on our School Bus Drivers; they are caretakers of the most valued cargo in our lives, our children. Safety is the first priority of the McIntosh County School Transportation Department, and we ask your child's complete cooperation in boarding, riding, and unloading our buses appropriately. Our greatest deterrent to injury and accident is a safe rider.

The school bus is an extension of the classroom, so the school day begins when the student boards the bus in the morning and ends when he/she leaves the bus in the afternoon. Please understand that public schools in Georgia are not obligated to transport children. Riding the school bus is a privilege to the students and a service to the parents/guardians. Therefore, students who consistently refuse to abide by the bus regulations and Rules of Conduct will have their riding privileges suspended.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to safe school transportation with the McIntosh County School System.

Sincerely,

Transportation Department

For your Information

- ◆ The school district receives no funds for transporting children within 1.5 miles of their school. Local school funds provide this special service to students as long as they abide by bus safety regulations and Rules of Conduct.
- ◆ State regulations recommend that bus stops to be at least one-tenth (.1) mile or more apart. Stops spaced closer than that are a courtesy of the McIntosh County School System.
- ◆ State regulations recommend that buses be routed down streets and roads off major truck routes only if a child's walking distance is one-half (.5) mile or more. Exceptions are approved on an individual case basis and involve both safety and common sense criteria.
- ◆ Parents are responsible for their children going to and from the bus stop and while waiting for the bus. Students should be at their designated bus stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives. The bus will not wait for you if you are late.
- ◆ Written permission from a parent/guardian, signed by the Principal, is required for a child to ride a bus to which he/she is not assigned or to leave the bus at a stop other than his/her assigned stop. Only authorized persons may board or ride the school buses.

MISSION STATEMENT

*McIntosh County School System
will provide a high quality education for all of our
students.*

Misbehavior on the school bus distracts the driver and is a very serious hazard to the safe operation of the bus that jeopardizes all riders. To protect the safety and well-being of all riders, students must follow the Rules of Conduct. Proper bus conduct must be a joint effort of the bus drivers, students, parents, teachers, and administrators. To ensure a safe and pleasant ride for all students, the following bus discipline procedures will be applied by bus drivers, transportation supervisor and school administrators:

(ALL students will have ASSIGNED SEATS)

- 1st Referral:** Driver warns the student with the first written conduct report form.
- 2nd Referral:** Driver/Supervisor counsels student and notifies Parent of second written conduct report form about the bus probation and that the next offense will result in suspension off the bus for a minimum of 3 days.
- 3rd Referral:** Principal talks with student and notifies Parent of the suspension off the bus for a minimum of 1-3 days.
- 4th Referral:** Principal talks with student and notifies Parent of the suspension off the bus for a minimum of 4-5 days.
- 5th Referral:** Student is off the bus for a minimum of 6-10 days. Parent is notified. Additional referrals may result in being suspended off the bus for the remainder of the semester.

Serious offenses may result in IMMEDIATE Suspension from the bus regardless of the number of the referrals.

McIntosh County School buses are equipped with video cameras.

FILMS FROM THE CAMERAS WILL BE REVIEWED BY ADMINISTRATORS AND CAMPUS POLICE FOR CASES THAT INVOLVE SERIOUS INCIDENTS OR UPON A STUDENT RECEIVING THE FIFTH CONDUCT REPORT REFERRAL.

SCHOOL BUS VANDALISM POLICY

Students who vandalize school buses by damaging seats or in any other way defacing or damaging the bus shall be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension from riding the bus, suspension from school, and payment for repair of the damages. The punishment will be based upon the nature and severity of the damage and Transportation/Principal shall exercise his/her discretion in determining the appropriate punishment as follows:

1. Minor damage to a seat cover:

One (1) day out of school suspension to be waived upon payment of \$15.00 for repair of the seat and one (1) additional day of suspension from riding the bus.

2. Damage requiring replacement of the seat cover:

Three (3) days out of school suspension to be waived upon payment of \$35.00 for replacement of the seat cover and three (3) additional days of suspension from riding the bus.

3. Damage requiring total seat replacement:

Five (5) days out of school suspension to be waived upon payment of \$55.00 to replace the seat and five (5) additional days suspension from riding the bus.

4. Other acts of vandalism:

Punishment, using the guidelines set forth above, at the discretion of Transportation/Principal, depending upon the severity of the damage and the cost of repairs.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The bus shop is open weekdays from 6:30 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. Please call 437-8841 should you need transportation information regarding:

*Your child's bus route or schedule

*A service problem or concern

*An incident on the bus that has not been satisfactorily resolved, or

*Emergencies

If no one answers, please call the Board of Education office at 437-6645, between 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. and ask for the Transportation Department.

DON'T LOSE YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGE! FOLLOW THESE RULES

- Observe the same conduct on the bus as in the classroom
- Be courteous, profane language is not allowed.
- Do not eat on the bus. Keep the bus clean.
- Cooperate with the bus driver.
- Do not be destructive.
- Stay in your seat.
- Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
- Sit in your assigned seat.
- Stand off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Be at the bus stop on time.
- Talk in a normal tone of voice. Unnecessary conversation with the bus driver is dangerous.
- Whenever boarding or departing, cross the road 10 feet in front of the bus and only when the driver signals that it is clear to cross.
- Do not bring large boxes, cages, firearms, knives, glass bottles, animals, reptiles, offensive materials, etc. on the bus.
- Pay for damage to school buses or property within 10 days after billing.

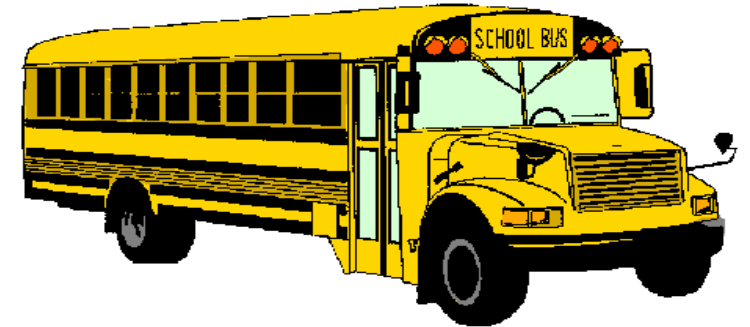
Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990); or disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Revised: 7/31/13

McIntosh County

School Bus

Ride Guide



Information for Parents and Students

About School Transportation

