

## **ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUS CONDUCT POLICY**

Authorized bus stops will be located at designated areas, accessible to students from surrounding neighborhoods. Students will be required to walk to a common bus stop. The maximum walking distance for a bus stop by state law is one mile. Bus stops may only change as deemed necessary by the School Department. Students are to ride only buses that they are assigned to, as bus passes are checked. Once a child boards the bus, and only at that time does he or she become the responsibility of the school district. Such responsibility shall end when the child is delivered to the regular bus stop at the close of the school day. The parent/guardian is responsible for the behavior and safety of the student between the residence and the designated bus stop and while waiting at the bus stop. The procedure for handling behavior problems, including bad language, on school buses shall be as follows:

- a. First Offense - A letter and the Bus Conduct Form shall be sent from the Principal of the school or Transportation Coordinator to the parents of the student advising the parents of the offense
- b. Second Offense - Bus privileges may be revoked for a two-week period and parents shall be so notified by the Principal of the school the student attends.
- c. Third Offense - Transportation privileges may be taken away from the student for the remainder of the school year, and the parents shall be so notified by the Principal of the school the student attends of the offense.

### **BUS CONDUCT RULES NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS:**

We are pleased to offer school bus privileges for the school year. Please be aware that the school bus is an extension of the school itself, and rules regarding behavior are the same as in the school. School bus safety is a primary concern of the Ashland Public Schools and we reserve the right to take whatever action is necessary to maintain a high level of safety. The right of a pupil to school bus transportation is a qualified right, dependent on good behavior. In cases where a pupil seriously or continuously misbehaves, parents will be notified by the principal or designee of the school to which the pupil is assigned. The bus pass will be revoked if, in the opinion of the principal, such action is necessary for the general safety and well being of other students. In cases where a pupil's conduct jeopardizes the safety and well being of other students, based upon the assessment of the driver, that pupil may be immediately excluded from the bus.

### **STUDENTS WHO RIDE A SCHOOL BUS ARE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Students shall stand on the sidewalk or another designated place while waiting for the school bus. They shall respect other people's property, respect the right of other people to pass on the sidewalk and display manners that indicate consideration and safety for others.
2. Students shall never approach a school bus until it has completely stopped and the door is opened. In boarding the bus, they should proceed in an orderly manner, single file.
3. Students shall remain seated while the bus is in motion.

4. Students shall not open windows without permission. Do not throw anything out of the window. Do not put your hands, arms or any parts of your body out of the window at anytime. Do not open the rear exit emergency door unless there is an emergency or if you are directed to do so by the driver.
5. In crossing the roadway after alighting from the bus, cross only in front of the bus when the blinking lights are on and the stop sign is extended. Pass at least 10 feet in front of the bus and look for traffic in both directions before crossing the roadway. Never run beside a bus, chase after a bus or pick up anything that has fallen near the wheels of a bus.
6. The bus driver has full authority as well as responsibility for control of the conduct of students while they are on the bus. Drivers should be treated with courtesy and respect at all times.
7. Students must listen and follow the directions of the driver. Students who refuse to obey promptly the directions of the driver or refuse to obey rules may forfeit their ability to ride on the bus.
8. Students who continually ignore the bus driver and cause serious problems will be brought back to the school. If students are brought back to the school, their parents will have to drive them home or arrange transportation for them.
9. There shall be no pushing, striking or general fooling. Students are not allowed to use profane or abusive language.
10. All Eligible and Fee-Based students will be issued a bus pass which they must show to the driver each day upon entering the bus. The pass entitles students to a school bus ride to and from school.
11. A student who allows another student to use his/her bus pass or sells his/her bus pass is subject to having their bus pass privileges revoked.
12. Large art projects, skateboards, or instruments (ex. cello), animals, pets, are not allowed on the school bus. Under no circumstances should firearms, explosives, or weapons be brought onto a school bus. Lunch boxes, smaller musical instruments and small athletic equipment (those which can easily be transported on a student's lap) must be kept out of the aisle.
13. Vandalism, destruction or defacing of property will not be tolerated. Students found to be responsible for causing damage to a school bus will be responsible to the bus company for the cost of repairing said damage and they will be suspended from using the school bus. Students who witness the destruction of property have a responsibility to report such misbehavior to the driver or school authorities.
14. There is no smoking, eating or drinking on the school bus. The bus must be kept neat without litter.
15. A student who pays a fee for transportation and whose riding privileges are suspended because of violation of these rules will not receive a fee refund.