

Bibb County Public Schools Transportation

Student Transportation Education Plan

*To teach the students how to **S.O.A.R** on the school bus **Safely Orderly and Respectfully***

One of the key strategies in Bibb County Public Schools Vision 2016-17 is to ensure that each student demonstrates strength and character and is college or career ready.

Transportation believes that we can support these key strategies by teaching and developing safe and appropriate riding behaviors for students. To protect the safety (physical and emotional) of each individual student on the bus, and to develop bus-riding behaviors that will be relevant and meaningful when the student is out in the community. Students are expected to be **safe, orderly and respectful**.

The Behavior Management Plan is a three-part program that uses steps to help the bus driver and student to achieve that goal by developing and maintaining appropriate student behavior on the school bus. It consists of: 1) Prevention Steps, 2) Intervention Steps and 3) Consequences. The first steps of the program are administered by the bus driver. The final step of the program (consequences) is administered by the school administrator or designee.

Prevention: Prevention steps are used by the bus driver to educate the students about the safe and appropriate riding behaviors, clarify the bus driver's expectations for the students and assist students to understand how to successfully demonstrate safe riding habits every day.

Expectations: Bus drivers should clearly communicate expectations and reinforce them appropriately and often. Expectations should be based on the student transportation principles of what is "*Safely, Orderly, And Respectfully.*"

Intervention: Intervention steps are used by the bus driver to help the student stop unsafe and inappropriate behaviors or habits while assisting student to identify the appropriate habit or behavior. Intervention steps may also provide notification to the parent/guardian so that the parent can be involved in assisting the driver to change unsafe or inappropriate riding habits. Bus drivers may use the interventions listed below during the intervention step of the process. A minor offense is considered inappropriate or unsafe student behavior that may be improved with minor assistance from the driver.

1st Verbal Reminder: Bus driver will remind the student of the bus rule(s) not being followed.

2nd Verbal Reminder and Seat Reassignment: A student's assigned seat may be changed by the bus driver when such change may help the student to demonstrate appropriate riding behaviors and/or allow the driver to more effectively monitor that student's behavior. The bus driver will again also remind the student of the bus rule(s) not being followed.

Parent/Guardian Notified: Bus driver/driver supervisor will make contact with the parent/guardian to notify them of the student's inappropriate behavior to determine what steps could be taken to help the student demonstrate appropriate and safe riding behaviors.

Any or ALL of the above steps may be bypassed when a student's actions are illegal or judged by the driver to be so unsafe or disrespectful that immediate corrective action is required. 1st major offense may result in loss of riding privileges for the remainder of the school year. Violations that should be considered **major offenses**, include but are not limited to the following:

- Drugs (*includes alcohol, cigarettes, lighters*)
- Throwing objects inside of the bus or out the bus window
- Fighting (*trying to intentionally hurt someone*)
- Threats/Bullying (*verbal and physical*)
- Weapons (knives/guns), dangerous instruments, and explosive/implosive devices
- Sexual Harassment

Such violations should be **reported immediately** to the School Administrator on a **Bus Discipline Referral Form**.

Consequences: If prevention and intervention steps are unsuccessful at improving the student's behavior or safe riding habits, a bus discipline form is submitted by the bus driver to the school administrator. The school administrator is then responsible for assigning appropriate, effective consequences for the student's inappropriate behavior in an effort to effect necessary improvement.

When a student's behavior escalates beyond a driver's control or is not improved after using the appropriate intervention steps, the bus driver will submit a **Bus Discipline Referral Form** to the school office.

Reasons Bus Discipline Referral Form sent to school administrator:

- Behavior escalates beyond a driver's control or is not improved after using the appropriate intervention steps.
- Major offense.

The school administrator will assign appropriate consequences based on a) the severity of the misbehavior and b) number and frequency of the student bus referrals.

Suggested Guidelines:

1 st Referral	3 Day Bus Suspension
2 nd Referral	5 Day Bus Suspension
3 rd Referral	10 Day Bus Suspension
4 th Referral	Bus Suspension for the Remainder of the School Year

The goal of assigning consequences is to bring about the desired student behavior on the school bus and the Transportation Department supports any consequences that achieves that goal.

The Transportation Department's number one goal is to prepare **ALL** students to ***S.O.A.R.*** on the school bus ***Safely, Orderly, And Respectfully.***