

# Orange County Public Schools

## Regulations For Pupils Riding School Buses



Orange County Public Schools  
200 Dailey Drive  
Orange, Virginia 22960

### TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

#### General

This pamphlet of regulations is furnished for all pupils who ride Orange County Public School buses on regular runs, field trips or extracurricular trips. Parents or guardians and pupils should read this pamphlet, sign the attached form and return it to the school principal.

#### MEETING THE BUS

Parents and Guardians are encouraged to accompany Primary and Elementary-age students to and from bus stops.

Pupils Must:

- Be on time. Be at their bus stop at least five minutes before the regular pickup time, but no earlier than ten minutes before the bus arrives.
- Not stand on the traveled portion of the roadway while waiting for a bus.
- Not engage in play or activities that will endanger themselves or their companions while waiting beside the road.
- If they cross a highway or road, watch for the bus driver's signal that it is safe to cross. They should cross at least ten feet in front of the bus and never cross behind it.

- Respect the property of homeowners in the area.
- Board the bus in an orderly fashion.
- Report immediately to the driver, any illness or injury sustained on or around the bus.

### **Conduct On The Bus**

#### **Pupils Must:**

- Recognize that the bus driver is the authority on the bus; obey the bus driver and be courteous to him/her and to fellow students. The driver has authority to assign seats in order to maintain order, discipline and promote safety.
- Go directly to their assigned seats, and remain seated unless directed by the driver to do otherwise.
- Not mar or deface the bus. Willful or careless damage must be paid for by the pupil performing the act.
- Not use profanity or indecent language or gestures.
- Not use tobacco in any form.
- Not have drugs or alcohol.
- Not have prescription drugs
- Not extend arms, legs or head out of bus.
- Not talk to driver while bus is in motion except in an emergency.
- Not fight, scuffle or slap others.
- Not tamper with the emergency door.
- Not wave or shout at pedestrians or passengers in other vehicles.
- Not throw objects in the bus or from a window or throw objects at the bus.
- Not bring skateboards on the bus.
- Not carry on the bus oversized objects that would block the aisle, cause loss of passenger seat space, obstruct the driver's view or create a safety hazard. Objects shall never be placed in the aisle or at the front of the bus on the floor.
- Not throw paper or litter on the floor
- Not sell or consume food or beverages
- Not engage in unnecessarily loud talking or laughter

- Not open windows without permission from the driver
- Not operate portable radios and/or other audio equipment
- Not sit on textbooks and other objects. Standing or sitting in the aisle is not permitted
- Not have any unsafe objects (water pistols, animals, reptiles, insects, matches, knives, firearms, etc.) in their possession.
- Not have glass containers
- Have written request from parents to go home on an alternate route, subject to approval of the school principal. Bus drivers must be notified by the school office when approval is given to a pupil to change a bus trip.
- Be aware that no change will be made in the location of bus stops or bus routing without the approval of the Transportation Office.
- Ride the bus to which assigned. No change in a bus may be made without the permission of the school principal and/or the transportation director.

### **Leaving The Bus**

#### **Pupils Must:**

- Remain seated until the bus comes to a full stop. Leave the bus in an orderly manner; pupils in the front seats unload first.
- Leave the bus at their regular stops.
- Leave the bus stop area when safety permits as soon as discharged from the bus. If pupils must cross a highway, they are to do so only at the front of the bus and at a distance of at least 10 feet in front of the bus. Students must not cross until the driver has signaled that it is safe to do so.

These rules and regulations are for your information and your child's safety. Bus drivers are instructed to report to the school principal any infractions.

**Riding a school bus is a privilege.** Should any child be reported to the school principal, the principal will be responsible for taking disciplinary action, including the loss of the privilege of bus transportation until the parents or guardians, the bus driver, and principal can arrive at an understanding. Parents and guardians will be responsible for the transportation of any pupils who have lost school bus transportation privileges.

If we can be of any help to you with problems relative to the transportation of your child, please feel free to contact the school principal or Transportation Office. Your cooperation in the safe transportation of your child is appreciated. We pledge to provide safe, courteous transportation for students of Orange County Public Schools. Students are subject to video monitoring on some school buses.

**TO: Parents and Guardians of Orange County Public School Students**  
**FROM: Superintendent of Orange County Schools**

I am requesting your assistance in providing a SAFE and EFFICIENT transportation program for your child.

Please read the Regulations **for Pupils Riding School Buses** with your child. It is important that you and your child understand the regulations covering the conduct of your child when he/she rides an Orange County Public School Bus. Please encourage them to abide by these regulations in the interest of their safety.

The school principal has the authority to discipline pupils attending public schools and riding buses to and from school. The principal also has the authority to suspend bus riding privileges to students who create disciplinary problems on the bus, posing a hazard to themselves, their fellow students, the bus driver and the motoring public.

Both you and your son or daughter should SIGN THIS TEAR-OFF SECTION AND RETURN IT TO THE PRINCIPAL who will retain it on file. For any student unable to read these instructions or sign his or her name, the signature of the parent or guardian will indicate that these regulations have been explained to the student.

**JUST A REMINDER: PLEASE STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES LOADING OR UNLOADING STUDENTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

For Parent or Guardian

I have read and understand the Regulations for Pupils Riding School Buses and agree to assume full responsibility for my child's conduct on said buses.

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian

School Child Attends \_\_\_\_\_

For Pupils

I have read and understand the Regulations for Pupils Riding School Buses and agree, as a passenger, to abide by said regulations.

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_  
Student

School Grade \_\_\_\_\_