

Safe Rider Program



Cobb County School District Transportation Department

Safe Rider Program

Abajo se encuentra la descripción del programa de seguridad en el camión también se encuentra en español a
<https://www.cobbk12.org/page/47135/safe-rider-program-forms>

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The safety of your child(ren) is our number one priority, and “The Safe Rider Program” is a student management program that teaches proper school bus safety. The program includes a defined and graduated discipline plan, with the core of the program promoting personal accountability and empowering students to correct their unsafe behavior. This allows safe transportation for all passengers. Also, students may receive additional safety training through the S.O.A.R. Program (Safe, Orderly, and Respectful).

The Safe Rider Program has proven successful, resulting in a 55 percent reduction in bus-related discipline district-wide. This assists the driver with fewer distractions and a safer bus ride.

How the Program Works

The program promotes instant accountability for unsafe behavior, as shown below.

The program also includes a defined and graduated discipline plan. The concept does not stop here. We have also developed a Safe Rider Class that uses several strategies to empower students to correct unsafe behavior. Some of these techniques include role-play, videos, and classwork, which will be scheduled to avoid interfering with the student’s academic work.

Unsafe Behavior on the Ride Home:

- ▶ If unsafe behavior occurs before the bus leaves the school, the student will be provided with two options: (1) Correct the behavior and continue home (behavior documented), or (2) Be removed from the bus and stay at the school with staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick up the student (behavior documented).
- ▶ If unsafe behavior occurs after the bus leaves the school, the driver will contact their field coordinator. The field coordinator will assess the situation and, if necessary, remove the student from the bus, return the student to school, and keep the student under staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick the student up.
- ▶ If either of the above instances occurs, the graduated discipline plan will be in effect. CCSD J-Policies for students supersede the Safe Rider Program.
- ▶ Alternate arrangements must be pre-approved by the school using a CCSD Bus Pass presented to the driver before boarding the bus. Riders will not be allowed if the bus is at capacity or the student has poor bus behavior.

We need your partnership to continue making Cobb’s buses safer and a more enjoyable ride for all students. **Please review this entire document and educate your child(ren) regarding the expectations of riding the school bus.**

Please sign and return pages 3 and 4 to your driver within 5 days to continue your bus riding privilege.

Students 8 years old and younger need to complete the registration portion of this form through the Parent Portal App.

We expect students to – Be Safe – Be Responsible – Be Respectful – Be Peaceful!

Thank you for your support.

Safe Rider Program Behavior Policies and Regulations (Bus Rules)

Students must follow the Safe Rider Program while on the bus and at the bus stop. The school bus is an extension of the classroom, and riding the bus is a privilege. CCSD and the Transportation Department's established rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Students must respect the school bus drivers and follow their instructions and "The Safe Rider Program."
2. All students shall comply with the reasonable directives of any CCSD Employee. Failure to do so is considered insubordination.
3. Students shall identify themselves upon request of any CCSD Employee.
4. Students must stand in an orderly manner at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. They may approach the bus only after the driver waves them over.
5. Students must wait for instructions (hand signals or otherwise) from the school bus driver every time they cross the street to board or exit the bus. Students must maintain eye contact with the driver and cross in full view. Students should never cross behind the bus.
6. At dismissal time, students must board the bus as soon as school is released; they may not loiter in the courtyard or on the sidewalk. Once on the bus, students may only depart with the administrator's or a transportation employee's approval.
7. Students must remain silent and still at all railroad crossings until the school bus ultimately crosses the railroad tracks.
8. Students must always remain seated properly unless directed by the school bus driver. (Bottom to bottom, Back-to-back). Middle school students will be assigned a seat. (High School will be at the driver's discretion.)
9. Unnecessary noise is prohibited. Students must talk at a low level. Loud voices or devices can interfere with the safe operation of the school bus.
10. Students shall not use any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus that interfere with the communication equipment or the driver's operation of the school bus. Cell phones, tablets, audible music, and game players may be used only with headphones or earbuds, provided they do not distract the driver or other students. Students must remove earbuds/headphones and put away electronic devices while boarding or exiting the bus. Students may not use any electronic device to take photos, use a webcam, or record video or audio while in a school board-provided vehicle.
11. Food, gum, or drinks should not be consumed or opened on the school bus due to allergic reactions and the possibility of choking. Water can be consumed in a closed container with a screw-on lid.
12. Students must follow the CCSD dress code and not change clothes on the bus to or from school.
13. Name-calling, harassment, intimidation, touching, threats, and bullying are prohibited at the bus stop and on the school bus.
14. Obscene language and gestures are not permitted on the school bus.
15. Fighting, pretend fighting, roughhousing, or horseplay is prohibited.
16. Objects should not be thrown inside, outside, or around the school bus.
17. Destruction or defacing any part of the school bus is prohibited. The replacement cost will be borne by the parents/guardians.
18. Emergency doors, windows, roof hatches, and other equipment are to be used only under the direction of the school bus driver.
19. Students must always keep all body parts inside the school bus.
20. Students should not use mirrors, lasers, flashing lights, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective surfaces/devices as they may interfere with the operation of the school bus.
21. Weapons (or objects that look like or could be used as weapons) are not permitted at bus stops, on school buses, or on school grounds.
22. Student possession or use of tobacco, tobacco product substitutes (e.g., tobacco look-alikes), cigarette look-alikes (e.g., electronic cigarettes), hookahs and hookah look-alikes (e.g., electronic hookahs), vaping devices, or vaping cartridges is prohibited.
23. Objectionable and dangerous items are prohibited on the school bus. Examples: glass items, lighters/matches, animals, balloons, flowers/plants, skateboards, hoverboards, perfume/cologne, aerosol cans, plastic bags, insects, straight or safety pins, sharp objects, toys, objects that cannot easily fit in their book bags, projects that cannot fit on the student's lap, or any other item of a questionable nature that might present a safety hazard.
24. Band instruments, sporting equipment, and school projects can be transported only if there is enough space for all students' seating requirements. No item shall block the emergency exit or aisle at any time.
25. Students must only board and exit the school bus at their designated bus stop. The school must pre-approve alternate arrangements by completing a CCSD Bus Pass. Parents or guardians must submit a written request for a bus stop change or a bus change to the school in advance. The CCSD Bus Pass must be given to the bus driver when boarding the school bus. (A Bus Pass can be denied if the school bus is at capacity, if the student has a history of bus behavior offenses, or if the student becomes an offender.)

Graduated Discipline Plan (Elementary School): CCSD Student J-Policies take precedence over SRP

- **1st Offense** – Driver Student Conference & Parent Contacted (Courtesy Notice)
- **2nd Offense** – Driver Student Conference & Parent Contacted. (Courtesy Notice.) Student on probation and re-assigned to the front of the bus for 1 week.
- **3rd Offense** – Referral submitted, **1 Day Bus Suspension**. Conference with the student, parent notified. Upon return, the student is placed on probation and reassigned to the front of the Bus for 1 week.
- **4th Offense** – Referral submitted, **3 Day Bus Suspension**. Conference with the student, parent notified. Upon return, the student is placed on probation and reassigned to the front of the Bus for 2 weeks. Safe Rider Class and Behavior Contract
- **5th Offense** - Referral submitted, **5 Day Bus Suspension**. Conference with Parent, Student, Transportation Staff, and School Administrator to discuss bus suspension for the remainder of the year, and the student is placed on probation and reassigned to the front of the bus for the remainder of the year.
- **6th Offense** - Bus Suspension for the remainder of the school year.

Any behavior considered disruptive or unsafe by the school bus driver will be handled by "The Safe Rider Program." Serious Offenses are administered through Student J-Policies.

Steps may be skipped if a student violates a rule while in a reassigned seat or on probation.