

## **SCHOLAR TRANSPORTATION**

### **SECTION I: Eligibility for Bus Transportation**

Bus transportation will be provided scholars whose residence is a mile or more by the nearest traveled road from the school to which they are assigned.

Scholars enrolled in special or alternative programs approved by the superintendent may also be provided bus transportation.

Bus transportation for exceptional scholars as defined by law is provided to and from school upon proper certification by the executive director for exceptional education services and the approval of the superintendent or designee.

Rules and regulations governing the conduct of scholars who use school district transportation shall be prepared and distributed at the direction of the superintendent. Violation of such rules or regulations may result in disciplinary action.

### **SECTION II: Scholar Conduct on District Transportation**

While the law requires the school district to furnish transportation, it does not relieve parents of scholars from being accountable for their conduct boarding the bus in the morning, traveling on the bus, and leaving the bus at the end of the school day.

The principals, bus drivers, and parents should share the responsibility for explaining to the scholars that riding a school bus is a privilege, that standards for behavior on buses are similar to those for classrooms, and that they can expect verifiable complaints of misbehavior to lead to disciplinary action including temporary suspension from buses. The district engages in positive behavior interventions and strategies in an effort to help prevent infractions or minimize recurring infractions. Nevertheless, the board and district shall have the authority to discipline scholars for misconduct on school property and on the road to and from school, or at any school related activity or event.

The school bus, including the bus stop area, is an extension of the classroom and school. All District and school rules and regulations that pertain to scholar conduct in the school are applicable to scholar conduct on the bus and at the bus stop. Rules and regulations governing the conduct of scholars who use school district transportation may be prepared and distributed at the direction of the superintendent. Therefore, the District Code of Scholar Conduct is applicable to incidents occurring on the school bus and at the bus stop area.

In cases in which a scholar does not properly conduct himself or herself on a bus, the bus driver upon returning to the school must bring such instances to the attention of the building principal. If necessary, the driver may stop the bus and telephone the

principal for help. An adequate supply of forms designed to report scholar misconduct will be provided to each bus driver. Only a school official may remove or direct the removal of a scholar from the school bus.

Scholars who are disruptive and misbehaving on the bus are subject to being suspended from bus transportation. Disruptive and misbehaving scholars on the bus include, but are not limited to, those scholars who assault, fight, scuffle, harass, taunt, threaten, or bully other scholars, spit, trip others, smoke, throw objects out the window, throw objects at the bus driver or at each other, refuse to remain seated, disobey the instructions of the bus driver, use profane or vulgar language or gestures towards other scholars or the bus driver, or otherwise cause a disturbance on the bus such that it interferes with the driver's ability to safely and efficiently operate the bus. The principal, following regular disciplinary interventions and procedures, may suspend disruptive, misbehaving scholars from riding school buses for a maximum of five days. However, a bus suspension does not necessarily imply suspension from classes during that period. After two suspensions, and following regular disciplinary interventions and procedures, the scholar may be suspended from school buses for the rest of year or a portion thereof. A scholar's riding privilege will not be suspended until parents are notified of the problem. When a scholar has been suspended from riding a school bus, it is the responsibility of the parent to see that the scholar gets to and from school safely.

### **SECTION III: Transportation to Special Events**

Under the direction of the principal, with the approval of the superintendent or designee, organized groups which require transportation to and from the point of a special event inside or outside of this school district may be transported either by licensed public carriers or by district-owned school buses.

Where using district -owned buses, the distance is not to exceed 200 miles beyond the territorial limits of the state of Mississippi.

Scholars in district recognized clubs, field trip activities, and competitive athletics programming are eligible for transportation.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi  
LEGAL REF.: Section § 37-41-3; Mississippi Code of 1972

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