



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
DOUGHERTY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Safety First Policies and Regulations

DR. DAVID C. MOSELY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

KENNETH WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



ISO Certificate No. 38272
ISO 9001:2008

Dear Parents:

The safety of your child/children is our number one concern and “The Safety First Program” is an approach of teaching student behavior management for school bus safety. The core of the program is promoting personal accountability as it relates to bus behavior. Misbehavior endangers the safety of all passengers.

RIDING A DOUGHERTY COUNTY SCHOOL BUS IS A PRIVILEGE!

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 as well as an educational component to encourage the student to make better behavior choices.

Unsafe Behavior on the School Bus:

- Any unsafe behavior on the ride to school in the morning will be documented and reported to a school system employee.
- If unsafe behavior occurs before the bus leaves school, the student will be provided with two options: (1) Correct the behavior and continue ride home (behavior documented) or (2) be removed from the bus by school staff and stay at school with staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick up the student
- If unsafe behavior occurs after the bus leaves the school; the driver will call Dispatch. The Dispatcher will then contact a Supervisor. The Supervisor will meet the bus and assess the situation. If necessary, the Supervisor will contact the Dispatcher who will call the school police department to remove the student from the bus and transport home or to the appropriate agency.
- If either of the above instances occurs, the graduated discipline plan will be in effect. {Board-Policy Supersedes }

We need your partnership as we move forward in making the Dougherty County School System buses a safer and more enjoyable part of the student’s day. Please review the ***Safety First Policies and Regulations*** with your child/children. If your child/children decide to take advantage of their bus riding privilege, please legibly complete, sign the ***Safety First Contract*** with your child and return to your bus driver within 5 days to continue bus rider privilege and receive your child’s assigned seat.

Thank you for your support.

Kenneth B. Williams
Transportation Director



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Students shall follow all Safety First Behavior Policies and Regulations while on the school bus or bus stops established by the Dougherty County School System including, but not limited to:

1. Students must show respect for school bus drivers at all times and follow the “**The Safety First Program.**”
2. Bus numbers will be assigned to all students who ride a bus to and from school.
3. All students will be assigned a seat on the school bus.
4. Unnecessary noise is prohibited. **NO TALKING** is allowed on the bus.
5. **NO** student shall refuse to identify one’s self upon request of any Dougherty County School System Employee.
6. Students must be standing at their assigned bus stop **AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES** prior to the scheduled pick-up time. Students are to wait at the school bus stop in an orderly manner.
7. Students must **WAIT** for instructions (hand signals or otherwise) from the school bus driver **EVERY TIME** when crossing the street to board the bus or when exiting the bus. Students must be able to maintain eye contact with the school bus driver or cross in full view of the school bus driver.
8. Students must board the bus as soon as school is dismissed and not loiter in the courtyard and on the sidewalk. Once on the bus at dismissal time, the student will need the approval of an administrator to depart the bus at school.
9. Students **MUST** remain **SILENT** and **STILL** at **ALL** railroad crossings until the school bus crosses railroad tracks completely.
10. Students **MUST** remain seated properly at all times unless otherwise directed by the school bus driver. (**BACK to BACK – BOTTOM to BOTTOM**)
11. Student shall not talk on a cell phone and no other electronic devices can be used and will remain put away at all times.
12. Due to allergic reactions and the possibility of choking - food, gum, and/or drinks are not to be consumed or opened on the school bus.
13. Name calling, harassment, intimidation, threats and bullying is prohibited on the school bus
14. Obscene language and gestures are prohibited on the school bus.
15. Students are prohibited from wearing their pants sagging.
16. Fighting, pretend fighting, roughhousing or horseplay is **NOT** permitted.
17. **NO** objects (however small) are to be thrown on, in, out or at the school bus.
18. Destruction or defacing any part of the school bus is prohibited.
19. Emergency doors, windows, and hatches are to be opened **ONLY** at the direction of the school bus driver.
20. Students must keep all body parts inside the school bus at all times.
21. Students shall not use mirrors, lasers, flashing lights, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective surfaces in a manner which might interfere with the operation of the school bus.
22. Weapons (*or objects that look like and/or could be used as weapons*) are **NOT** permitted at bus stop, on the school buses or school grounds.
23. Tobacco, illegal drugs and/or alcohol is **NOT** permitted at bus stop, on the school buses or school grounds.
24. Objectionable and/or dangerous items are **NOT** allowed on the school bus. (glass items, lighters/matches, animals, balloons, skateboards, perfume/cologne, aerosol cans, plastic bags, insects, straight or safety pins, sharp objects, large toys or objects that cannot easily fit on the student’s lap or any other item of a questionable nature that might present a safety hazard)
25. Band instruments, sporting equipment and school projects can be transported **ONLY** if there is enough space for all students’ seating requirements. Items may be placed in the seat or lap to whom they belong. This is left to the bus driver's discretion.
26. **Students will be allowed to board or exit the school bus at a bus stop other than the assigned residence bus stop ONLY with a Dougherty County Emergency Transportation Request Form completely filled out by Parents/guardian and with school administrator approval (in writing). The approved form must be given to the school bus driver when boarding the school bus.** (Transportation can be denied if school bus is at capacity or if the student has a history of bus behavior offenses or becomes an offender) Any behavior that is considered disruptive or unsafe by the school bus driver will be handled through the use of “**The Safety First Program.**” *Steps may be skipped if a student violates a rule while on assigned seat or probation.*



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Safety First Contract / Emergency Form

If your student is going to take advantage of their bus riding privilege, please legibly complete, sign the ***Safety First Contract*** with your child and return to your bus driver within 5 days to continue bus rider privilege and receive your child's assign seat.

STUDENT's LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	MALE OR FEMALE
AGE	SEX	SCHOOL	GRADE
PARENT/GUARDIAN	RELATIONSHIP	HOME PHONE	EMERGENCY PHONE
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
BUS DRIVER	BUS NUMBER		

You must keep ALL YOUR INFORMATION up to date.

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH RIDER. THIS INFORMATION IS REQUIRED FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION. THANK YOU!

The student above and I (signed as Parent) have read the *Safety First Policies and Regulations* understanding and agreeing to abide by all bus safety rules. Failure to comply can result in bus suspension and loss of riding privilege if not corrected.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE	DATE
PARENT'S SIGNATURE	DATE

Please return this form to your Bus Driver