

## **BUS RULES 2017-2018**

**NOTE:** TRANSPORTATION IS A PRIVILEGE AND IS NOT CONSIDERED A "RIGHT" UNDER PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE. CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL REQUIRES THAT ALL STUDENTS FOLLOW RULES OF CONDUCT.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** As you may know, Erie School District is no longer using school buses to transport students to school. ESD students will be riding EMTA buses that will

- a. Have no monitors
- b. Not be designated for only students

For the safety of your children, our Board and Administration have assumed the extra cost of providing First Student buses for all of our students. We can only afford to have monitors for either morning or afternoon run. We have chosen to put our monitors on the afternoon run as safe arrival home at the end of the day is the obvious choice. There will be no bus monitors on the morning bus runs this year. It is important for parents to reinforce expectations for bus safety. Students who have repeated bus write ups or safety concerns will not be able to ride on the yellow First Student buses. Students who live more than a mile from school will be offered an EMTA bus pass, similar to ESD students.

The following subsection outlines what is expected of students who ride the school bus to and from school:

The safety of students is a top priority, and misbehavior on a school bus will not be tolerated. It is imperative that students follow all bus rules/procedures for the safety of all children. If a child violates bus rules, resists bus procedures, poses a safety risk for him/herself and/or others, the following suspension policy will be followed. If a suspension has been assigned, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to bring their child to school and pick them up after school on time.

In order to insure student safety, school staff and the bus company will work cooperatively to establish safeguards, including, but not limited to establishing assigned seating, the use of a mounted video camera, and the notification of parents.

All students are under the supervision of the driver of the bus and/or the bus monitor if one is present. The driver and/or bus monitor will handle any behavioral concerns that occur while the bus is in route either to or from the school. The bus driver and/or bus monitor is responsible for documenting any bus infractions.

When a student violates the bus policy, a written notification will be faxed to the Robert Benjamin Wiley Community Charter School by First Student Transportation.

### **Rules of conduct on the Bus/Vans:**

- No student shall throw any objects or substances in or around the bus.
- No student shall use loud or profane language in or around the bus.
- No student shall engage in pushing, fighting, or other unruly behavior in or around the bus.
- All students shall remain seated at all times while on the bus. Aisles must be kept clear-legs/bookbags etc out of the aisle.
- No student shall deliberately mark, deface or tamper with any part of the bus. The parent of that student will pay for any damages.
- All students will get off and on the bus at their assigned bus stop only.
- No student shall eat or drink on the bus.
- Students will follow the directions and requests of drivers and monitors without argument/conflict

Bus behavior referrals will be handled on a quarterly basis in the following manner:

The first incident report will be considered warning and parents will be notified.

The second incident report will result in a one day bus suspension.

Third and subsequent incidents in a quarter will result in 3 day bus suspensions.

In cases of severe incidents, suspensions will be given without warning if deemed appropriate by an administrative staff.

The bus suspension will be enforced for accumulation of referrals as set forth below. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to provide transportation to and from school. Students suspended from the bus must continue to attend school. Transportation problems will not be considered legal absences.

Additional incident reports will be enforced on an individual basis and suspensions will be given at the discretion of the school administration and the bus company. School staff may, but is not required to use videotape from the bus camera to determine suspensions or additional disciplinary actions.

Additional suspensions will be longer in duration and **will result in PERMANENT REMOVAL from riding the yellow school bus.**