

Estill County Schools – School Bus Safety

Level I Misconduct:

Level I misconduct on the part of the student is defined as minor infractions, which impede bus procedures or interfere with the orderly operation of the bus. Level I misconduct can usually be handled by the bus driver, but sometimes may require the intervention of other school support personnel.

Examples of Level I misconduct:

1. Failure to obey driver's instructions
2. Foul language or inappropriate gestures
3. Failure to stay seated
4. Hanging hand, arms, and/or legs out windows
5. Eating or drinking on the bus
6. Throwing paper or other objects on the floor
7. Inappropriate display of affection
8. Use of telecommunication device (cell phone, tablet, etc.) unless approved by driver or school personnel

Suggested Response Options:

1. Verbal reprimand by driver
2. Assignment of seat by driver
3. Discipline referral to principal

Level II Misconduct:

Level II misconduct is conduct whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the bus and often result from the continuation of Level I misbehaviors. These types of misbehaviors are serious enough to require action by an administrator.

Examples of Level II misconduct:

1. Failure to ride assigned bus
2. Failure to sit in assigned seat
3. Throwing objects
4. Use of tobacco products/electronic cigarettes
5. Leaving the bus at an unscheduled stop without authorized permission

Suggested Response Options:

1. Discipline referral to principal
2. Use of any tobacco product/electronic cigarettes carries an automatic one day bus suspension by the principal
3. Principal may exercise any Level II response:
 - a. Notify parents
 - b. Teacher-principal conference
 - c. Parent conference (driver may be asked to attend)
 - d. One day in school suspension
 - e. Bus suspension by principal (1-3 days)
 - f. Counseling

Level III Misconduct:

Level III misconduct refers to acts directed against another person or property by whose consequences do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others on the bus. These types of misbehaviors are serious enough to require action by an administrator.

Examples of Level III misconduct:

1. Fighting
2. Vandalism (under \$100)
3. Throwing objects at driver/assistant
4. Harassment of driver/assistant

Suggested Response Options:

1. Discipline referral to principal
2. Bus suspension by principal (4-10 days)
3. Principal may us any Level III response:
 - a. Notify parents and require restitution for damaged property
 - b. Confiscation of materials
 - c. Bus suspension
 - d. Alternate in-school suspension
 - e. Extended school day detention
 - f. Mandated counseling sessions
 - g. Placement change
 - h. Suspension from school (3-5 days)

Level IV Misconduct:

Level IV misconduct is evidenced by acts that result in violence to self or other's property or presents a direct threat to the safety of self or others on the bus. A "threat" shall refer to a communication made by any means, including, but not limited to electronic and/or online methods. Threatening or violent behavior shall include but not be limited to:

1. Verbal or written statements or gestures by students indicating intent to harm themselves, others, or property.
2. Physical attack by students to intentionally inflict harm to themselves, others or property.

Examples of Level IV misconduct:

1. Possession or use of drugs, alcohol or other controlled substance on the bus
2. Possession of a dangerous instrument on a school bus or deadly weapon: ex. Knife with blade in excess of 3.5 inches
3. Throwing items out of the bus

Suggested Response Options:

1. Driver is to immediately call bus garage for specific instructions from law enforcement officials
2. Restitution
3. Loss of non-educational field trip(s)
4. Principal may use any Level IV response:
 - a. Immediate parent notification
 - b. Police involvement
 - c. Refer to social services
 - d. Suspension from school (5-10 days)
 - e. Loss of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the semester/year
 - f. Board action may result in expulsion for up to 12 months (for suspension and expulsion procedures involving students in special education , refer to the Estill County Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Level V Misconduct:

Level V misconduct is evidenced by acts that result in violence to another's person or property or presents a direct threat to the safety of others. These acts are serious enough to be considered criminal and require immediate administrative action, which will entail an immediate removal, the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and action by the school board. Transportation director will notify superintendent.

1. Second charge of possession or use of drugs, alcohol or any controlled substance on the bus

Mandatory Response:

1. Driver is to immediately call bus garage for specific instructions from law enforcement officials.