

Rules for riding on Louisa school buses

- While on the bus, you are under the direct supervision of the driver and must obey him/her. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats to students. Disciplinary action will be taken for not obeying the directions of the driver.
- Always remain seated and keep your hands, head and arms inside the bus. Feet and books are to be kept out of the aisle. Anything that cannot be held on the student's lap or that blocks the aisle will not be allowed on the bus.
- Obscene language, gestures or loud or boisterous talking or laughter is prohibited.
- Fighting, horse playing or slapping at another student is not allowed.
- Smoking, striking of matches or the use of lighters or electronic cigarettes is not allowed on the bus or in the loading area at any time.
- School rules regarding the use of alcohol, drugs, knives or other weapons, use of profanity and obscene gestures apply to all students riding the bus.
- Eating or drinking on the bus is not allowed. Drink bottles, other glass containers and cans are not allowed. The sale of candy, cookies or other items is not allowed.
- Students are not allowed to get off the bus and re-board later.
- No one is allowed on the bus who is not an LCPS student.
- Students who want to get on or off at a stop other than their own, or ride a bus other than their regular one, must have a written request from their parents, approved and signed by the principal or assistant principal and given to the bus driver. They can ride only if space is available.
- Throwing paper or other debris on the floor, at another student or out of the windows or doors is not allowed.
- The costs of repairing damaged seats or other areas of the bus will be paid for by the student. Payment must be made or arrangements made before the student's riding privileges are reinstated.
- Never tamper with the emergency door or any other controls on the bus. Opening or closing the front door is not allowed by anyone other than the driver.
- Use of personal audio devices is prohibited except with the permission of the driver or in accordance with an accommodation on an individual education plan.
- Students may possess a beeper, cell phone, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or other electronic communication device if the device remains off and out of sight unless otherwise authorized.
- You cannot play cards on a school bus.
- No animals or pets are allowed on the bus.

Meeting the Bus

Arrive at your bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Drivers will not wait for any late arrivals and will not pick up students at points other than their assigned stops. Bus stops are established during the first week of school. The stops are usually placed away from hills and/or curves, generally .2 miles apart for high and middle school students and .1 miles apart for elementary school students. Rerouting and changes to the bus schedule is at the discretion of the school division.

- When nearing your bus stop, walk toward the traffic. Do not play in the roadway, stand or place books or other articles in or near the roadway.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and then walk to the front door. Do not walk beside the bus.
- If you must cross the road to board the bus, wait on the left side of the road until the bus is stopped, the stop arm and crossing gate are activated, and your driver assures you that the road is clear of traffic by signaling you to cross. Wherever practical, riders should be picked up on the side of the road on which they live.
- Cross the road at least 15 feet in front of the bus.
- If an emergency situation occurs after you have been signaled to cross, the driver will blow the horn to advise everyone to clear the traffic lane.

The Louisa County School Board considers student transportation a privilege to be enjoyed by eligible students and believes the safety of students to be of the utmost importance.

Consistent or deliberate violations of rules pertaining to student behavior on buses can result in the temporary suspension of bus privileges. Students can lose bus privileges at the discretion of the principal when he/she determines the conduct of a student is detrimental to the safety and welfare of the other students. Only the Superintendent or designee can suspend bus privileges for more than 10 days. The Superintendent or designee will review the action taken if asked, in writing, for a review. The decision of the Superintendent or designee is the final decision and there is no further appeal or hearing to the School Board.

To the Parent

Parents are expected to read these rules and procedures with their child. Any violation of these rules could result in suspension of bus riding privileges and, in some circumstances, suspension from school. Parents will be responsible for their child's transportation to and from school in the case of suspension of bus riding privileges. Parents of elementary students must see their child safely to and from the bus stop. If your child must cross the highway, it is very important to make sure that he/she waits until the driver has given the proper signal to do so.

It is very important that you understand that the school bus will not wait at your child's stop. Sometimes during the school year, changes in bus stops or routes need to be made due to new students enrolling in school.

Students with a pass to ride a bus to a stop different from the stop at which they were picked up can ride only if there is a seat available on the bus. If the request is for passes for social engagements, only one pass will be allowed without one week prior approval.

If you have questions regarding the rules, policies or disciplinary measures stated here, you may contact the principal at your child's school or call the Transportation Department. Parents who board the school bus to make a complaint are in violation of Section 18.2 of the Code of Virginia. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Leaving the Bus

Stay seated until the bus comes to a COMPLETE STOP.

Leave the bus in an orderly manner. Do not stop or stand near the sides or rear of the bus.

If you must cross the highway:

- Wait 15 feet in front of the bus until all students who are crossing the road are ready to cross. Look at the driver and when the driver signals, walk straight across the road.

- Do not stop to pick up anything dropped in the road or to get the mail. Do not cross back immediately behind the bus.

Provisions for Afternoon and Activity Buses

- All students are required to have a bus pass in order to ride the activity bus.
- **CAUTION:** Afternoon activity buses run during late evening hours and sometimes after dark, when motorists do not expect their presence. If you must cross the highway, cross only after you receive a signal from the driver. Please use extreme caution.