

SFCS Bus Rules and Discipline Procedures

Please sign and return the last page.

Students

Students are expected to walk to and from their bus stop in a safe and responsible manner. Riders are expected to be at their bus stop five minutes before departure time. Behavior at the bus stop, or on the way to and from the bus stop, is to be the same as on the bus or at school. Students are to wait for the bus at the location specified by SFCS. Students must not cross the street on which the bus is loading until the driver directs them to do so. Students who cause destruction or damage to the bus will be ordered to pay restitution for the damages. These offenses may be considered vandalism. Restitution will be at a rate for the cost of the repair or replacement value. There will also be a loss of riding privilege for a number of days to be determined based on the offense.

Parents

The parent/guardian is responsible to instruct their student(s) how to walk to and from the bus stop and to ensure that the student(s) know the way to and from home. Parents must obtain prior written approval from the school site for their student(s) to go to a different bus stop than usual. The parent/guardian is responsible to see that their student attends school even if transportation privileges have been suspended.

Bus Driver

The driver of the bus shall be recognized as the ultimate authority on his/her bus and shall hold students accountable to maintain acceptable behavior on the bus consistent with approved policies, rules and regulations. Specific seats may be assigned to the students by the bus driver. Bus drivers have the authority to issue written bus referrals. These will be acted upon by the Principal and may result in the loss of riding privileges.

Behavior on the Bus

- Bullying behavior will not be tolerated.
- Courtesy and consideration should be shown to fellow passengers and the bus driver at all times.
- Students must go directly to their seats upon entering the bus. Students must sit facing the front of the bus. Riders shall sit down and fasten any passenger restraint systems.
- Students are not permitted to eat on buses.
- Students must keep their head, arms, hands and other parts of their body inside the bus at all times.
- There is to be no unauthorized opening, closing or tampering with bus doors, windows and emergency exits or other equipment.

- Students are not to shout, talk loudly, use profanity or make offensive gestures to other students, pedestrians, motorists or the bus driver.
- There is to be no horseplay or fighting on the bus.
- All passengers must remain in their seats until the bus has come to a complete stop.
- No objects of any kind are to be thrown on, at or from the bus.

Items Prohibited on Buses

- Pressurized cans, explosives, flammables or anything in a glass container/jar are not allowed on the bus.
- Prior approval and arrangement must be made to transport oversized or potentially dangerous school projects. These should be stowed in bus storage places or adequately secured.
- Riders may bring electronic devices onto the bus only if such devices are permitted at school. If the use of cellular telephones or other electronic devices disrupts the safe operation of the school bus, the bus driver may direct the student to no longer use the device on the bus. Cell phones and electronic devices may not be used for phone calls, texting, or taking pictures at any time while on the bus.
- No animals except guide dogs, signal dogs, and service dogs trained to provide assistance to individuals with a disability, shall be transported in a school bus.

Discipline Process

A first offense most commonly results in a verbal warning, which may be followed by other actions such as an assigned seat, written bus referral and loss of riding privileges if the student's behavior is not corrected. However, the below sequence of disciplinary actions is a guideline for the Bus Driver. Steps may be skipped if the offense is of a serious or dangerous nature. A first offense may result in immediate loss of riding privileges. The Principal will make this determination, with input from the SFCS Board if necessary.

Violation of any of the bus rules will result in the following sequence of disciplinary actions:

- Verbal warning from the bus driver.
- Bus referral #1 - Mandatory bus seat assignment by bus driver and parent contacted by the Principal. Seat assignment and parent contact will be documented.
- Bus referral #2 - Detention assigned by the Principal and parent contacted.
- Bus referral #3 - Up to five (5) days loss of bus riding privileges, additional detention assigned by Principal. Parent conference is required. Special Education Department is notified if the student is receiving Special Education services.
- Bus referral #4 - Up to ten (10) days loss of bus riding privileges, additional detention assigned by Principal. Parent conference is required. Special Education Department is notified if the student is receiving Special Education services.
- Bus referral #5 - Up to twenty (20) days loss of bus riding privileges. Special Education Department is notified if the student is receiving Special Education services.
- Bus referral #6 - Up to forty (40) days loss of bus riding privileges. Special Education Department is notified if the student is receiving Special Education services.
- Bus referral #7 - Loss of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year. Special Education Department is notified if the student is receiving Special Education services.

Law and Policies

Red Lights

In the State of California, traffic must stop in all directions on a two or three lane roadway when a school bus has the red crossover lights and side stop arm activated. On a multiple lane highway (two or more lanes in each direction) only the traffic traveling in the same direction as the school bus must stop. Vehicle Code 22112.

Violator Warning Letter

The California Highway patrol may mail warning letters to the registered owners of any vehicle when a school bus driver reports an incident in which a vehicle does not stop for the red flashing lights.

Amber Warning Lights

Buses equipped with amber warning lamps will operate them at least 200 feet before a bus stop to warn drivers that the bus is stopping. When a bus is not equipped with amber flashing lights the bus driver will tap the brakes and start to slow down a minimum of 200 feet prior to a school bus stop.

Delayed and Snow Days

When school is delayed or cancelled due to weather conditions SFCS will alert parents by phone call – SFCS will create and implement a “daisy-chain” call system whereby parents are called and designated to call other parents.

You can obtain information by calling the office line at 209-742-6222.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND SIGN THE LAST PAGE AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL