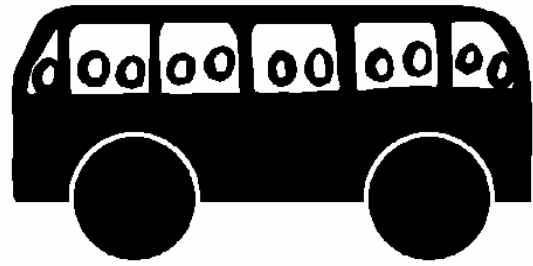




ALABAMA 4-H LEADING WITH CHARACTER



ACTING RIGHT: On the School Bus

Guidelines for *Alabama's Six Pillars of Character*:

Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship

School buses are part of your total school program. All school rules apply. Riding the bus is a privilege that can be taken away if you don't follow the rules and act right. You may spend many hours on the bus each year. By following some basic rules of good character, you help make that a pleasant experience for yourself and for the people who ride with you.

If you ride the school bus, you've got to obey the rules! It's important: *your safety and the safety of others depend on it!*

TRUSTWORTHINESS and RESPONSIBILITY

- Follow all bus and school rules. Obey the driver at all times, especially during loading and unloading.
- Be safety conscious. Look out for the younger children.
- Do the right thing and encourage others to do the same. You set an example for others.
- Let your actions bring honor to you, your family and school.
- Don't horseplay! Don't distract the driver! It's important for your safety!
- Tell the driver the complete and accurate truth when asked about bus-related incidents.

RESPECT

- The driver is in charge when you are on the bus. Give the driver complete cooperation and respect. Encourage others to do so.
- Use good manners; be courteous and polite. Be orderly, speak quietly and do not distract others.
- Be nice. Treat others with dignity and respect.
- Take care of your bus. Don't write on or damage the bus. Keep the bus clean.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Solve disagreements and respond to insults without violence.
- Discourage bullies from picking on smaller or weaker kids.
- Don't talk ugly, use profane language, or be crude or abusive.

FAIRNESS and CARING

- Be kind and helpful to other students and the driver.
- Be fair and just. Wait your turn to enter and exit the bus.
- Don't push.
- Let others have the good seats sometimes. Share your seat with others who need a seat.
- Be considerate to everyone, especially those doing homework or who don't feel well.
- Refuse to gossip, spread rumors; use put-downs, insults or joke at other kids' expense.
- Say "thank you" to your driver.



- Don't become "territorial" with seating. The ride each day is a good time to meet and get to know other students.

CITIZENSHIP

Here are some sample School Bus Rules. Those at your school may be a little different. Your school rules take priority.

Leaving Home

- Make sure you have everything you need for the day before leaving home.

Waiting for the Bus

- Be at the bus stop a few minutes before pick-up time.
- Wait for the bus in a safe place; stay out of the road.
- Wait quietly and orderly. Bring honor to your school and family.
- Respect the property of others.
- Don't drop litter at the bus stop. Pick up litter that is there.
- Stand back from the street as the bus approaches. Give the driver room to stop.
- Be prepared to load when the bus stops.

Boarding the Bus

- Board the bus at the correct stop. Have written permission to get on or off at a stop other than your assigned stop.
- **DON'T TRUST THAT OTHER DRIVERS WILL STOP FOR YOU! MAKE SURE THEY STOP BEFORE YOU WALK IN FRONT OF THEM!**
- Cross the street with caution in front of the bus where the bus driver and other traffic can see you.
- Form a single line; don't crowd, push or break in line.
- Use the handrail and take steps one at a time.
- Go directly to your seat and be seated.
- Don't bring items on the bus that are not allowed.

Riding the Bus

- Sit in your assigned seat and stay seated during the bus ride.
- Use good manners; be courteous and polite. Be orderly, speak quietly, and do not distract others.
- Show respect and cooperate with the driver; encourage others to the same.
- Keep arms, head and objects inside of windows. Refuse to throw objects within or out of the bus.
- Take care of the bus. Refuse to write on or damage the bus. Keep the bus clean.
- Keep aisle clear. Place your book bag and other items in your lap or under the seat.
- Don't eat, drink or bring food on the bus unless given permission.
- Take your belongings and trash off the bus.

Leaving the Bus

- Stay seated until the bus stops.
- Get off the bus only at your stop unless you have the required written permission.
- Use handrails and take steps on at a time.
- Exit through the emergency door only during an emergency.
- Walk away from the bus immediately if you don't have to cross the street/road.
- **DON'T TRUST THAT OTHER DRIVERS WILL STOP FOR YOU! MAKE SURE THEY ARE GOING TO STOP BEFORE YOU WALK IN FRONT OF THEM**
- Walk in front of the bus where the bus driver can see you when crossing the street/road.



- Get the bus driver's attention before you try to pick up something you have dropped.
- Never run back to the bus when the door has been closed and/or the bus is moving.



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