

## HOWLAND SCHOOLS RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BUS BEHAVIOR

School bus transportation is a privilege that cannot be abused by demands for luxury services or individual conveniences. A safe and efficient school bus program calls for teamwork by students, parents, bus drivers, teachers and principals. Without teamwork, a school system must risk what it cannot afford to risk ... **injury and/or death.**

On February 18, 1974, the Howland Board of Education established rules and regulations concerning bus behavior, pursuant to state statute 3327.01, Transportation of Pupils, and division "D" of Section 3301.07 of the Revised Code of Ohio. All Students and parents/guardians are requested to read and to comply with the following rules and regulations for safe and efficient transportation.

### Getting Into and Off the Bus

1. To help maintain morning schedules, all students must be ready and waiting when the bus arrives at their assigned stop.
2. Students must stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus. Students must conduct themselves in a safe manner while waiting.
3. Students must wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to enter or leave. Students will cross the street **in front of the bus.** Students must wait until the driver signals them to cross.
4. Crowding and pushing are dangerous and must be avoided at all times while on the bus and when boarding or leaving.
5. All students who are seated will remain seated until the bus has stopped. Those students standing must stand to the rear of the safety railing and along the aisle.
6. In the event of an emergency situation, all students are to remain on the bus, unless instructed otherwise by the driver.
7. Students may be assigned seats by either the bus driver, the school principal or the Transportation Supervisor.
8. Windows will be kept closed except when the driver permits them to be opened.
10. Except in special circumstances, authorized by the principal, students **will not** be permitted to ride a bus other than their own designated bus.

### Talking

1. Students should not talk to the driver while the bus is in operation, except in the event of an emergency.
2. Loud talking, laughing, whistling or unnecessary confusion is prohibited. Talking is permitted in a normal conversational tone. Students must maintain silence when the bus is stopped at railroad crossings or during an emergency situation.

### Prohibited Activities

1. Smoking, use of tobacco products, gambling or possession of intoxicants or drugs on the bus.
2. Eating, drinking, spitting or littering on the bus.
3. Use of profane language or gestures.
4. Harassment of other students, i.e., name calling, pushing, shoving, hitting, fighting.
5. Throwing of any objects at any times.
6. Use of projectile instruments, i.e. bean shooters, water pistols, rubber bands, aerosol containers, sling shots.
7. Carrying of firearms, weapons, explosives, animals or excessively large objects onto the bus.
8. Opening of the emergency door without the bus driver's consent.

### Student Behavior

1. Older students are expected to look after the safety of younger students.
2. Students are expected to be considerate of fellow passengers and the bus driver while on his/her bus.

### Discipline Procedures

1. The bus driver has the sole responsibility for the direct supervision of all students while on his/her bus.
2. Bus drivers are required to report all discipline problems to the administrative supervisor and/or the principal of the school that the pupil attends.
3. Pupils may be suspended from riding on school buses by the administration for violation of any rule or regulation pertaining to bus transportation. Other means of discipline may be meted out at the discretion of school administrators, i.e., student/parent conferences, expulsion, possible police or court action or other acceptable disciplinary measures. (Not necessarily in the order listed).
4. Pupils suspended from riding their designated bus **may not** ride any other bus.
5. Each pupil or their parents or guardian will be responsible for paying for any damages to the bus by the pupil.

