

Handbook Addendums for FY 23

CONDUCT TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

Students are subject to the same rules of conduct while traveling to and from school as they are while on school

grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate student code of

conduct rules.

The preceding paragraph also applies to student conduct while on school buses. Students shall be instructed in safe

riding practices. The driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus until every passenger is seated.

Disciplinary measures for problems related to bus behavior shall include suspension or expulsion from school or

suspending or terminating the student's bus transportation privileges. Transporting students to and from school who

have lost their bus transportation privileges shall become the responsibility of the student's parent or legal guardian.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-19-119 (b), Ark. Division of Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules Governing

Maintenance and Operations of Ark. Public School Buses and Physical Examinations of School Bus Drivers 4.0

Date Adopted: 6.13.2019

The purpose of these student transportation regulations for the Gentry School District is to provide the safest, most

efficient transportation possible for students that are transported.

Student transportation is the responsibility of the entire community and requires the cooperation of all students,

parents, school personnel, and citizens who drive on the streets in the presence of school buses.

School buses are considered an extension of the school campus and all rules and regulations will apply.

Students and parents are asked to read these regulations carefully. They must be followed if safe, efficient

transportation is to be provided for the students of this School District.

A. Meeting the bus

1. Students should be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus normally arrives. Do not arrive earlier than

ten (10) minutes before the normal arrival time.

2. Before crossing a street to enter the bus, students must wait until the bus has come to a complete stop and the

driver has given directions to cross.

3. Students should respect the property rights of others while waiting for the bus. Don't litter or make unnecessary

noise. Don't gather under carports, on porches, or on lawns without permission.

4. Students should stand back at least ten feet from the bus stop and not approach the bus until it has come to a

complete stop and the door is opened.

5. Students who miss the bus are not to walk or ride another bus to school. Parents are responsible for making

arrangements to transport their children to school if they miss their appropriate bus.

B. Entering and leaving the bus

1. Students should enter and leave the bus quickly and in an orderly manner.

2. Students must not enter or leave the school bus by the back door except in the case of an emergency or unless

directed to do so by the bus driver.

3. Students who must cross the street after leaving the bus in the afternoon should go to a point, on the edge of

the street, ten feet in front of the bus and wait until the driver has signaled for them to cross.

4. Students who drop any object (book, paper, pencil, etc.) while leaving the bus should not attempt to retrieve

the object until the bus leaves the scene and the street is clear of other vehicles.

C. Riding the bus

1. Students must ride only the bus to which they are assigned. If a child is to leave school by any means other than

originally designated, written or oral permission from the parent or guardian must be submitted to the office

before the child will be allowed to change his/her mode of departure. Visitors are not allowed to ride buses

except when prior approval has been given by the principal.

2. Students must not distract the driver's attention or disturb other riders on the bus. This means students must

remain reasonably quiet on the bus.

3. Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion or stopped, except as directed by the driver.

4. Students must keep the aisles of the bus open at all times. This means that hands and feet and all personal

objects must be kept from the aisles of the bus.

D. Items never allowed on a school bus or at school

1. Knives

2. Firearms or guns (Real or Toy)

3. Sharp objects (such as ice pick, box cutters, razors etc.)

4. Clubs

5. Nunchucks, throwing stars, or other martial arts related items

5. Pets or other animals

6. Large Balloons

7. Hard balls (such as baseballs)

8. Fireworks or explosives

9. Matches

10. Cigarette Lighters

11. Toys, playing cards, dice, etc.

12. Glass containers

13. Electronic games or other media devices that do not have a volume control

14. Pepper spray or other noxious spray(s)

15. Any type of aerosol spray

E. Activities not permitted on the bus or at school

1 Eating and drinking

2. Chewing gum

3. Smoking, using e-cigarettes or similar type product, or tobacco of any form

4. Scuffling or fighting

5. Playing radios, tape players, band instruments or any type of music out loud

6. Yelling at anyone on the bus or outside

7. Throwing paper or any other objects on the floor of the bus or outside the window

8. Putting hands, arms, head or any part of the body outside the bus window

9. Tampering with any of the bus safety equipment or devices

10. Defacing any part of the bus

F. Punishment for misconduct

The school bus is considered by the board as an extension of the classroom and, in such, delegates the same authority to the bus driver as is delegated to a classroom teacher. No school bus driver shall be permitted to administer corporal punishment. The school bus driver shall not attempt to correct a child while school bus is in motion.

The school bus driver shall have the authority to temporarily suspend a child for misconduct, after sufficient warning, from riding a bus until such time as a conference can be held with the child, the child parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and the respective principal.

The transportation office, after consulting the building principal, director of operations, or superintendent, shall have the authority to temporarily suspend a child for misconduct, from riding a bus, until such time as a conference can be held with the child, the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and the respective principal.

Students are under the bus driver's supervision and must obey instructions and directions of the driver at all times.

The driver will submit a written report of all violations of the bus rules and regulations to the building principal.

The principal may, at his/her discretion, use any of the following methods of dealing with misconduct, depending on

the severity of the offense:

- Verbal reprimand;
- Detention
- Corporal Punishment
- Phone call may be made to parent/guardian;
- Conference with parent/guardian;
- Suspension from bus;
- Expulsion from bus;
- Suspension to in-school;
- Out-of-school suspension;
- Expulsion from school.

INTERMEDIATE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL General Discipline Consequences

The Gentry Intermediate and Primary School Discipline Plans provide a discipline framework for use in the classrooms and

other areas of the elementary campus. At the beginning of the year, each teacher will develop a set of rules that will govern

behavior in her/his classroom. In addition, a set of consequences will be developed as well as a plan for providing positive

reinforcement to reward acceptable behavior. Students will be informed of these aspects of the plan at the beginning of each

year. Once the classes have implemented their plan, each teacher will inform the parents about the plan and ask for a parent

signature to verify that the parent has read and understands the rules, consequences and rewards system.

The discipline plan also contains a severe clause for severely disruptive behavior. Such behavior may include but is not

limited to fighting, use of profanity, and possession of a weapon, possession of drugs or tobacco, e-cigarettes or similar type

product, or flagrant disrespect shown toward a member of the school staff.

Acceptable corrective measures may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Teacher-student conference
2. Taking away privileges or preferred activities
3. Referral to building principal
4. Clean-up duty
5. Parent-school conferences
6. Referral to other school personnel such as the counselor
7. Time-out or In-school-suspension
8. Corporal punishment - following established district guidelines
9. Out-of-school suspension
10. Expulsion

Descriptor Term Descriptor Code Issue Date Revised
Appearance and Dress Code JFCA July 1, 2006 6-16-08, 5-9-11, 5-20-13
5-14-18, 6-13-2019

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING

The Gentry Board of Education recognizes that dress can be a matter of personal taste and preference. At the same

time, the District has a responsibility to promote an environment conducive to student learning. This requires

limitations to student dress and grooming that could be disruptive to the educational process because they are

immodest, disruptive, unsanitary, unsafe, could cause property damage, or are offensive to common standards of

decency.

Students are prohibited from wearing, while on the school grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored

events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female. This prohibition does not apply,

however to a costume or uniform worn by a student while participating in a school-sponsored activity or event.

The Superintendent shall establish student dress codes for the District's schools, to be included in the student

handbook, and are consistent with the above criteria.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-502(c)(1), A.C.A. § 6-18-503(c)

Date Adopted: 6.13.2019

The first consequence of violating the dress code will be for the student to telephone for someone to bring appropriate clothing to school before being admitted into the classroom. Future violations will result in other

disciplinary measures as determined by the principal.

Because of the active nature of elementary school, children should wear comfortable clothing and shoes to school

students will not wear headgear in the buildings except on special days designated by the principal.

Students must

wear proper gym shoes during their P.E. classes, and they must be properly laced up.

Specific dress code items not allowed for the Intermediate, Middle and High schools are:

1. Tops with small shoulder straps or that allow the under garment to show. The student will be required to use

the width of three fingers across their shoulders at the narrowest part of the strap, Shirts must have two straps;

i.e., one on each shoulder

2. Tops that expose/show excessive cleavage/or chest

3. Bare midriff – shirts that show stomach area/waist will not be allowed

4. Clothing with inappropriate lettering, pictures or racial messages-such as drugs, alcohol, gangs, weapons, etc.

5. Shorts and Skirts of inappropriate length- the shorts, skirts, or dresses should touch the fingertips when the arm

and fingers are extended completely at one's side, (thumb does not count), Holes in shorts, pants, etc. must also

be at or lower than the specified "extended" measurement.

6. Any article of headwear or sunglasses – ex hats, bandannas, caps, including those knitted or crocheted.

(Principals may waive this rule as deemed appropriate for the circumstances) (At High School hats/caps may be

worn facing forward per teacher discretion.)

7. No Blankets allowed

8. Chains – (Example: wallet or dog style)

9. Gang related fashions

10. Bare feet – must wear shoes at all times

11. Drawings/ Symbols of racial content either on clothes or skin will not be tolerated

12. No Heeleys

Descriptor Term Descriptor Code Issue Date Revised

Tardies JEDB July 1, 2006 5.9.2011, 5.21.2014

8.19.2021

Any student who reports to school late must report to the office and obtain an admittance slip before entering his/her

classroom. All records concerning unexcused tardiness will be kept in the school office. At the Primary and

Intermediate Schools, students arriving after 8:00 a.m. will be considered tardy, and students leaving before 3:00

p.m. will be considered checked out early and for attendance purposes, students checking in after 9:00 a.m. and

students leaving before 2:00 p.m. will be marked absent for half of the day. At the Gentry High School and Gentry

Middle School, when a student misses more than 10 minutes of class it will be considered an absence from the class

for attendance purposes.

Excessive **tardiness (5)**, as determined by respective campus procedures, will result in a mandatory principal-

student-parent conference. At such time other consequences for future tardiness, may include noon detention, in-

school suspension, or other appropriate disciplinary actions will be determined.