



NO bus service will be granted if this policy is not signed and returned

2019-2020 School Bus Behavior Policy

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please read, sign and return the following notice by Wednesday, May 29, 2019. Many families have chosen ICS even though they live a distance from the school. ICS has bus transportation that is provided by a private bus company under contract with the School District of Philadelphia. In general, school buses do not have bus attendants to monitor behavior. In order to receive school bus service, your child must adhere to the following behavior policies or risk losing the privilege to ride the bus for the duration of the school year. **According to the PA Department of Education, BUS SERVICE IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT.** ICS considers this policy a matter of safety and therefore non-negotiable.

1. Expected Conduct for School Bus Students

- (a) Abide by the Independence Charter School Code of Conduct.
- (b) Be respectful of the bus property and the property of others.
- (c) Remain quietly in your seat. Students must remain facing forward and seated at ALL times.
*Students may talk quietly with the student sitting **next** to them.*
- (d) Follow the bus driver's or ICS teacher's directions promptly, the first time they are given.
- (e) No eating or drinking (other than water).
- (f) Students must go directly into school after exiting the school bus in the morning and must go directly to their bus at dismissal.

2. Discipline Sanctions

- (a) **Minor Incidents** - Warning Letter or Phone Call to Parent, assigned seat on the bus. Possible alternate consequence such as Wednesday School, detention or parent meeting.
Examples: Not sitting in seat, bouncing in seat, standing in seat, eating/drinking on bus, teasing, being loud.
- (b) **Moderate Incidents** - One week minimum Suspension from the school bus, assigned seat upon reinstatement **This includes removal of student from afternoon bus line resulting in parent pick up.**
Examples: Not following instructions of the bus driver or bus teacher, throwing objects, vulgarity harassment, out of seat or assigned spot, running around on the bus or in bus line, play fighting.
- (c) **Severe Incidents** – Dismissal from the school bus for the remainder of the school year. Child may not ride the school bus.
Examples: Destruction of property, fighting, seriously endangering self and others, making threats to cause physical injury, bullying. Taking part in a physical struggle. All parties involved will receive consequences. Independence Charter does not approve of "hitting back". All students are taught that "telling a teacher" is the appropriate response to being hit.

Please note that: **2 minor incidents equal 1 moderate incident.**
 2 moderate incidents equal 1 severe incident.

Please also note that: **These expectations and disciplinary sanctions will apply to children at or around the school bus stop, in the bus line, and on the school bus.**

If your student has his or her bus privileges revoked for the school year, you have the right to appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees. Your child has the right to be reinstated the following school year. It is important to note that if a student is suspended from school bus service, a parent must continue to provide a means of transportation to the school for the student. Suspension from the bus does not mean suspension from school. School attendance is mandatory. Parents are responsible for finding alternate means of transportation.

Additionally, conduct resulting in a suspension from the bus may also result in disciplinary action in the school. This may include, but is not limited to, detention, community service or out-of-school suspension. Furthermore, you may be liable for property damage or injury caused by your child.

It is suggested that students bring one of the following, approved activities on the school bus:

1. Book(s) to read
2. PSP, DSi, tablets, etc. Handheld gaming devices may only be used individually. Headphones must be worn. No sharing should occur or the privilege will be lost. These game systems MUST stay in the student's book bag during school hours and may only come out once they board the school bus.
3. Phone with music. Headphones MUST be worn and volume turned down so that it can only be heard by the student. These may not be shared or the privilege will be lost. They MUST stay in the student's book bag during school hours and may only come out once they board the school bus.

The above examples of the incidents are only a guideline and are not fully inclusive. Therefore, Independence Charter School reserves the right to modify/change the above policies.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above policies and have discussed them, and explained them to, my child.

Child's Name (Printed)

Child's Signature

Bus # and Color

Parent's Name (Printed)

Parent's Signature

Date