

REGULATIONS FOR PASSENGERS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

Meeting the School Bus

- Students are subject to all conditions of the *Code of Student Conduct* while at the bus stop, going to and from the bus stop, or riding the bus. Items that are prohibited at school, such as skateboards, etc., are not allowed on the bus.
- Parents or their designee should accompany their children to and from the school bus.
- Students must be on time. It is recommended that students be at their stop no earlier than **five minutes** before regular pickup time.

Conduct on the School Bus

- Students must obey the driver and be courteous to him/her and to fellow students. The driver is in charge of the bus and students and has the authority to assign seats to maintain discipline or promote safety.
- Students must never mar or deface the bus. Willful or careless damage must be paid for by the student performing the act.
- Books, book bags, band instruments, or other loose objects must not be placed in the aisle or at the front of the bus on the floor. These items will be permitted aboard.
- Eating, drinking, on the bus is prohibited.
- The following items will not be permitted on the bus: live animals, glass objects, skateboards, and other items that do not directly support the educational process.
- Portable communication devices, including cell phones, may be displayed, activated or used on school buses by school students while being transported to and/or from school.
- The bus driver has the right to refuse transportation to any student who has an unsafe object in his/her possession.

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- Students must provide written request from their parents to go home any other way than their regular route.
- No change will be made in the location of bus stops without the approval of the parents.
- Students must use the bus to which they are assigned. No change in a bus may be made without permission.
- In case of an emergency, students are to remain in the bus unless otherwise instructed by the driver.

Leaving the School Bus

- Students must remain seated until the bus comes to a full stop.
- Students must leave the bus at their stop.
- Riding a school bus is a privilege. Should any child be reported for more than three times the disciplinary action will be the loss of the bus transportation.

Unauthorized Passengers

- A school bus driver shall not permit any unauthorized passengers on a school bus.
- On school-sponsored field trips, only those children and adults assigned by the school shall be transported on a school bus.

School bus drivers accept responsibility for transporting children to and from school.

Therefore, school bus drivers are given the authority to:

1. Assign seats.
2. Decide if their route is unsafe for school bus travel because of weather or road conditions (decisions will be reported to the office).
3. Adjust their route due to emergency conditions.
4. Refuse to pick up or discharge any student at any stop other than the student's designated stop without a written request or authorization from the parents.

Role and Responsibilities of the Parents

1. Parents are responsible for reviewing the "School Bus Rules and Regulations" with their children.
2. Parents are responsible for the safety and supervision of their children from the time the children leave home in the morning until they board the bus, and at the end of the day from the time the school bus departs the unloading area.
3. Parents are liable for damage caused by their children to the property of others, including the school bus.
4. Parents should have their children ready to board the bus (5) minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the bus.
5. Parents of children who walk to bus stops should develop specific routes which minimize the exposure of their children to vehicular traffic when walking to and from the bus stops.
6. Parents should talk to their children about obeying school crossing guards and traffic control signals.
5. Parents should be home to receive their children from the school bus at the end of the school day. If parents cannot be home to receive their children from the school bus, arrangements should be made, if possible, for older children (sister, brother, or neighbor) to receive the children from the school bus.

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6. Parents are responsible for completing the "School Bus Information" form.

The bus personnel or transportation staff may need to contact parents about emergencies or discipline matters.

Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege may be denied permanently if the misconduct of the child jeopardizes the safe operation of the school bus or the safety of the children riding the bus.