

SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

1. The District provide school bus transportation to students who live outside a one and one-half mile radius of school, at any designated pick-up points, and to each child who is participating in a Head Start program. The provision of school bus transportation is not a right of students, but is a privilege extended by the board of education. Because the potential for property damage and personal injury is great, the superintendent is directed to establish rules and regulations governing the conduct of school bus passengers. Strict adherence to such rules and regulations shall be required.

2. Once a child boards the bus – and only at that time – he or she becomes the responsibility of the school district. Such responsibility shall end when the child is delivered to the regular bus stop at the close of the school day.

3. Children shall be required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior.

4. In accordance with the policy of the board of education, the following rules and regulations shall govern the conduct of school bus passengers:

a. Students and other school bus passengers shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with good classroom behavior while waiting for and traveling on school buses. Misconduct will be brought to the attention of parents and the principal by the school bus driver.

b. The noise level on school buses must remain at a low level to enable the bus driver to hear emergency and train signals. Therefore, passengers must not shout, sing, or otherwise cause any disturbance that may distract the driver.

c. Smoking or the consumption of food or beverage is not permitted on school buses.

d. School bus windows must remain closed unless the driver permits them to be opened. When windows are open, passengers must not throw objects from windows or extend any part of the body through a window.

e. Any passenger who defaces or vandalizes a school bus in any way shall be immediately suspended from riding school buses. The first suspension shall be for five days; the second suspension shall be for the remainder of that school year. No suspended student shall be permitted to resume the school bus privilege until all damages for which the student was responsible are paid.

f. For misconduct other than vandalism, the student's parent/guardian and the principal shall be notified of a first occurrence. The principal shall take whatever reasonable action he deems necessary. For a second occurrence, the student shall be placed on probation in addition to the above notification and bus privileges shall be withdrawn for five days. For a third, and subsequent offense, a student's privileges shall be withdrawn for the equivalent of one semester.

g. Students must board the school bus at designated bus stops, if any, and at school bus boarding areas on school premises. Students must remain orderly until the bus comes to a complete stop and boarding permission is given by the driver. Seats may be assigned at the driver's discretion. Passengers must be seated immediately. Seats may not be held for later passengers, and must be shared when necessary.

h. After the bus is enroute, passengers must remain seated until the bus is stopped. Upon exiting the bus, passengers must move away from the bus. The school bus will not move until the passenger can be observed by the driver. If a passenger must cross the street to reach the residence, the passenger will advise the driver.

i. Elementary school students waiting at the high school until school dismissal must remain in the bus.

j. If a student is denied transportation for any reason, the parent(s) will be notified as soon as possible. The bus driver shall not put a child off the bus other than at the student's regular stop without written parental permission.

5. The safety and welfare of student riders will be the first consideration in matters pertaining to transportation. Children will be instructed as to the proper and safe conduct while aboard transportation vehicles. Emergency evacuation drills will be conducted regularly to acquaint students thoroughly with appropriate procedures for emergency situations.

6. All vehicles used to transport students will be maintained in a condition that will provide reasonably safe and efficient transportation service with a minimum of delay and disruption due to mechanical or equipment failure. Buses will be replaced as required to provide good equipment at all times.

7. Complete reports on any school bus accident should be filed in a timely manner. These reports should be brought to the attention of the board as soon as possible.

8. School bus drivers will always bring the bus to a full stop - with caution lights flashing - before loading or unloading passengers.

9. When unloading passengers, the driver will stay in place with caution lights on until the exit. Passengers are at a safe distance away from the bus and/or clear of the street.

In accordance with the policy of the board of education and to assure a well-maintained activity bus for all students, the following guidelines shall apply:

1. The bus driver in charge.
2. All trips will have an adult sponsor on board the bus.
3. Riders are to be in their seats when the bus is in motion. No leaning over seat backs or resting feet in the Aisles.
4. When the activity bus arrives at its destination, the bus driver, with the assistance of the sponsor(s), will inspect the condition of the entire inside of the bus prior to riders getting off. Riders will be asked to clean up in the areas they have occupied.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

1. The safety and welfare of student riders will be the first consideration in matters pertaining to transportation. Children will be instructed as to the proper and safe conduct while aboard transportation vehicles. Emergency evacuation drills will be conducted regularly to acquaint students thoroughly with appropriate procedures for emergency situations.
2. All vehicles used to transport students will be maintained in a condition that will provide reasonably safe and efficient transportation service with a minimum of delay and disruption due to mechanical or equipment failure. Buses will be replaced as required to provide good equipment at all times.
4. Complete reports on any school bus accident should be filed in a timely manner. These reports should be brought to the attention of the board as soon as possible.
5. School bus drivers will always bring the bus to a full stop - with caution lights flashing - before loading or unloading passengers.
6. When unloading passengers, the driver will stay in place with caution lights on until the exiting passengers are at a safe distance away from the bus and/or clear of the street.