

HASKELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
482-3331



BUS RIDER SAFETY GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

Includes:

Transportation Mission Statement

Bus Regulations for Students

Student management program

Contract for bus service

**THE PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT (BACKPAGE) MUST BE SIGNED
AND RETURNED TO YOUR BUS DRIVER TO RECEIVE BUS SERVICE**

“We believe that a positive and safe trip is the start to a great education!”

Mission Statement

The mission for Haskell Schools Transportation Services is:

“To provide quality transportation services for students in a positive and safe manner with a commitment to service and excellence.”

We understand it takes the cooperation of everyone for successful bus service. The key element for this to work is the rapport between the driver and the student. The number one reason for fatalities and injuries on school buses in the country is driver distraction by students. Distractions can be positive or negative behaviors by the student sitting behind the driver.

We want to create safe riders. The driver is the authority on the bus like the teacher in the classroom. Drivers have been through many hours of training to do the best job possible. Many of the techniques a driver uses to control the bus are for preventative measures. There is no margin of error after the fact. While the enclosed information may seem very strict, it serves as a standard to ensure the safety of your child on the bus. If everyone does his or her part the whole bus wins.

We are proud of our safety record and want to continue to improve. Please review this handout thoroughly with your child, sign the back page, and return it to the driver. This will make your child eligible for bus service. We consider it a privilege to serve you. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Transportation Director
Donny Cheatham
918.482.3331

BUS REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS:

1. Be on time at the bus top, which is 3-5 minutes before the scheduled pick up time.
2. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before boarding.
 - a. If you must cross a road, wait for the driver to signal you across.
3. Always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus
4. When necessary, there may be 3 students to a seat.
5. Saving seats for other students will not be allowed.
6. Students must sit facing the front, with their backs against the seat.
7. Feet should touch the floor, if possible.
8. After boarding the bus, students must remain in your seat until the bus reaches your designated stop.
 - a. The transportation office must approve any alternative stop in advance.
9. Students are required to use the stop nearest their home.
10. The student responsible for the damage to any bus fixtures or equipment must pay for such damage.
11. Aisles must be kept clear at all times.
12. If you have personal items on the bus they must be held in your lap.
13. At no time will a student put any part of their body out the bus window.
14. Students should not talk to another student that is outside the bus.
15. No loud talking is allowed.
16. Radios, headsets, and hand held games are not allowed.
17. Students may not have food, beverages, gum, or candy on the bus.

A DRIVER HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CORRECT ANY STUDENT ON THE BUS FOR ANY UNSAFE ACTIVITY.

A STUDENT MAY BE DENIED PERMISSION TO RIDE A BUS TO AND FROM SCHOOL IF THEY CHOOSE NOT TO COOPERATE WITH THE RULES.

FIGHTING, ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR GESTURES, DAMAGING SCHOOL EQUIPMENT, FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH SCHOOL PERSONNEL, USE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL, WEAPONS, ETC. ARE MAJOR VIOLATIONS THAT WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC BUS SUSPENSION.

PARENTS MUST ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR CHILDREN WHILE RIDING THE BUS. IF PERMISSION TO RIDE THE BUS IS SUSPENDED, THE PARENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS STUDENT IS ALLOWED TO RIDE THE BUS AGAIN.

THE PARENT SHOULD KEEP THESE REGULATIONS FOR REFERENCE.

ADMINISTRATOR

- A student whose behavior is such that it directly jeopardizes the safe operation of the school bus, or directly challenges the authority of the driver will lose their riding privilege without receiving previous warning.
- Immediate loss of riding privilege will result from vandalism, fighting, abusive language or gestures directed toward school personnel, failure to cooperate with driver, possession and use of drugs, weapons, etc. throwing of or spitting objects or any other actions that jeopardize the safety of student passenger or school personnel.
- Bus discipline procedures involving identified Special Education students with behavior disorders are determined individually on a case-by-case basis.
- The Transportation Director acts like the building principal and has the privilege to visit with students regarding bus behavior.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION FOR MINOR OFFENSES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- First offense: Student will be given an assigned seat and placed on probation.
- Second offense: Student will forfeit riding privileges for three days.
- Third offense: Student will forfeit riding privileges for five days.
- Fourth offense: Student will forfeit riding privileges for ten days. Student must visit with the building principal to be reinstated.
- Fifth offense: **TERMINATION OF BUS RIDING PRIVILEGE.**

Parent contact will always be made if possible, and a note will be sent home with the student. **Students that break probation will lose bus-riding privileges.**

The discipline steps listed above are the ones normally followed to correct inappropriate behavior. However, steps may be skipped if the behavior merits a more severe disciplinary action. The student management program is based primarily on the number of occurrences. When bus-riding privileges are removed for the given number of days there will be no flexibility regarding the decision. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT FOR BUS SERVICE

Sign, detach and return this sheet to your bus driver as your official application for permission to ride a school bus.

ALL COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE REPORTED PROMPTLY TO THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AT [918-482-3331](tel:918-482-3331).

We have read and agree to the terms of the contract.

Student section

Student name (print) Signature

Grade School

Bus route _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian section

Parent/Guardian (print) Signature

Address City Zip

Home phone Work phone

Driver Section

Bus stop location _____

Pick up time _____

NO STUDENT WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR BUS RIDING PRIVILIGES WITHOUT A SIGNED CONTRACT ON FILE WITH THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT. ALL BUS RIDERS ARE SUBJECT TO BEING FILMED BY VIDEO SURVEILLANCE WHILE ON THE BUS. BUS RIDERS OBSERVED VIOLATING BUS RULES ARE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.