

SCHOOL BUS RULES & SAFETY GUIDELINES

Getting our students to and from school safely is our number one concern. In order to ensure the safety of all students we expect all students to behave appropriately at ALL times-remember bus transportation is a privilege. Students will be assigned only one bus seat going to and returning from school. This seat may be on a route beginning or ending at the child's residence or child-care address if that child address is within either West Windsor-Plainsboro Township and within three and one half miles of the boundary of the sending/receiving area of the school the child is attending. Day care facilities for kindergarten students will be designated either AM or PM and transportation provided based upon that designation. The bus seat shall be assigned for five days a week. No student will be assigned more than one seat in either direction. In the event that district school is in session when a child care facility is closed, transportation shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian

It only takes a few minutes to review these bus safety tips with your children. Please make the time for the safety of all our children.

Student Discipline on Bus

The bus driver is responsible for order and behavior on the school bus. All behavior problems will be immediately reported to the Principal and Transportation Department.

**Prior to the opening of school, students are assigned to a specific bus and a specific bus stop. Bus passes are available through your Infinite Campus account, indicating route, stop, and time. Adult family members are encouraged to remind children of all rules and regulations.

All students should know the following School Bus Rules and Safety Guidelines:

- Be at your designated stop **10** minutes prior to bus arrival.
- Never stand and or play in the roadway while waiting for the bus. When possible stand on the sidewalk
- Behave in a courteous manner while waiting and be considerate of others property.
- Do not attempt to walk up behind your bus as the driver may not see you.
- Stay in the "SAFE ZONE"-ten feet in front of the bus. Never cross behind the bus.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before entering (you should be at least 3 GIANT steps from the curb to allow the driver to pull the bus up to the curb) or leaving.
- Always remain seated, facing forward with a seatbelt on.
- No eating or drinking.

□ **No student will be permitted to ride on any bus other than the one to which he/she is assigned, unless approved by the Principal and the Transportation Department.**

- Late buses are for students who stay for extracurricular activities/athletics.
- Keep conversations at a "normal" volume, with no vulgar language or gestures to the driver, other passengers, or passersby. This is a serious safety issue; any distraction to the driver may result in an accident.
- In an emergency, remain seated and wait for instructions from the driver.
- Keep all body parts inside the vehicle at all times.
- The bus driver reserves the right to assign seats and to grant permission to open windows. (remember if you open the window you close it)
- Musical Instruments, school projects, etc. are not permitted on the bus: unless the student can carry the object safely on his/her lap.
- No smoking.
- Defacing property or otherwise damaging the bus is not permitted. Charges may be made for any damage, and bus privilege may be revoked.
- No pets.
- The District/contractor is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged property.

THE DISTRICT MAY USE VIDEOTAPING SYSTEMS TO MONITOR STUDENT ACTIVITY.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY REPORT

This report was written by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Getting children to and from school safely each day is serious business. Every year, thousands of children are injured in school bus-related accidents. Many of these accidents can be prevented if children know and follow these rules for bus safety:

Rushing Roulette:

When children are late for the bus, they concentrate more on getting aboard than on safety. Too often, accidents result. Set your morning routine so that your child arrives at the bus stop at least ten (10) minutes before the bus is due.

Stay in the safe zone:

Bus drivers have blind spots because of bus design and many children have been injured because the bus driver did not see them. Tell your children to always stay in the "safe zone" of at least ten feet in front and around the bus.

Save the horseplay:

Bus stops are not playgrounds. Goofing around while waiting for the bus, especially if the play extends into the street can be deadly. Make sure your children understand the danger.

One at a time:

It is important for children to take their time entering the bus, lining up in a single file and not trying to push their way through a swarm. Seats will be assigned to all students to avoid the rush to get the "good" seat on the bus.

No distractions:

Children may think that bus rules (no shouting, no throwing things, no horseplay) are just to keep them in line, but there are serious safety issues involved. They should understand the importance of never distracting the bus driver.

Stay put:

Children are so eager to leave the bus that they often start for the front before the bus has stopped. Let them know that they need to wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before leaving their seats.

Cut the ties:

Clothing with drawstrings can be a real danger because loose strings can get caught on bus handrails. To be safe, remove drawstrings from your children's jackets and look for backpacks that do not have drawstrings.

Heads up:

A dropped book can turn into a serious accident if the bus driver does not see it. Tell your children to let the bus driver know immediately if they drop something while getting on or off the bus.

The inside story:

Figure out the safest route to and from the **bus stop and walk it with your children** a few times. Make sure they cross streets only at crosswalks or corners, never darting out between parked cars, and that they always look both ways before crossing.

The District reserves the right to add, delete or modify bus rules/safety guidelines at any time.