Dear Parent/Guardian:

School bus services provided by the Sioux Falls School District for eligible middle school students is a **privilege, not a right**, conditioned upon courteous behavior and obedience of established rules. It is the best means of getting students to and from school. The School District and School Bus, Inc. work together to see that this service is safe, efficient, and a good experience for every student and the SBI drivers. The bus drivers' primary purpose is to drive the bus safely.

All bus routes are monitored daily to ensure the bus ridership is in compliance with state regulations; this will often mean three students to a seat.

SAFETY

SAFETY SHALL BE THE PRIMARY CONCERN IN TRANSPORTATION. Under no circumstances shall economy, efficiency, or time schedules be emphasized to the extent that safety is compromised.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

South Dakota Law requires each driver to pass an FBI background check, physical examination, and to hold a valid commercial driver's license (CDL) with a passenger and school bus endorsement. The Division of Motor Vehicles records of each driver are checked annually.

SCHOOL BUS EQUIPMENT

The Department of Public Safety-Highway Patrol oversees the inspection of each vehicle annually to certify that it meets South Dakota Standards. In addition, the driver inspects the bus daily, and the transportation garage inspects the bus every 3,000 miles.

ELIGIBILITY

Students in grades 6-8 who live in designated bus areas are eligible for transportation. Students who are not eligible for transportation are not allowed to ride the bus for any reason. Students are only allowed to ride their designated bus.

If a new stop is required, transportation will normally be provided three school days after School Bus, Inc. receives the request.

PICK-UP & DROP-OFF ADDRESSES AND PROCEDURES

The student must be ready for pick-up at least five minutes prior to his/her scheduled pick-up time. Buses will not wait at a stop later than the scheduled pick-up time, nor will a bus leave a stop prior to the scheduled pick-up time.

Students are limited to two addresses, one pick-up and one drop-off. The two addresses need not be the same; however, they must be the same pick-up address every morning (1st address option) and the same drop-off address every afternoon (2nd address option). Both addresses must be within the geographical attendance area of the student's bus zones.

Pick-up points for students eligible for transportation will be approved by the School District, taking into consideration the proximity of the corner school bus stop to the immediate neighborhood of the bus stop. Students will not be picked up or discharged at intermediate points.

Students will be picked up and dropped off at school at a point not requiring the crossing of any street.

RETURNING CHILDREN HOME AFTER SCHOOL

Buses will depart from middle schools eight minutes after students are dismissed.

ROUTE CHANGES -- TRAVEL TIME DELAYS

Students will be added and deleted from the bussing program throughout the year; therefore, time of pick-up and delivery may change from time to time.

In the event of bad weather/emergency closing, your student should know in advance where to go when school is dismissed early. The parent/guardian should listen to the radio, television, or access the district website, www.sf.k12.sd.us, for information about school closings or early dismissals. School officials will use their best judgment about school closings or early dismissals, but a parent has the right to keep students home or to pick them up from school if they feel the weather requires this action.

Bus Bulletin Software is also used to communicate busing adjustments via email or phone calls to both the school and families.

The **Stopfinder APP** allows a parent/guardian to track when their student gets on/off the bus.

PERSONAL ARTICLES

As a safety factor, a student will not be allowed to take any article on the bus that may cause an injury to self or to others. Properly label student lunch boxes and school supplies.

Per policy JLCD/JLCD-R, students in grades 6-12 with the proper form on file with the school, may transport and self-administer medication. Possession is limited to the dose(s) necessary during school hours or the school event or activity for one day. Students may transport stock medication to be checked in at the school when prior arrangements have been made with the nurse or the principal. Misuse of medications will result in confiscation of the medication and subject student(s) to discipline in accordance with the District's progressive discipline policy.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students will:

- Ride on assigned buses.
- Display school issued Bus ID in a location visible to the bus driver.
- Be responsible for charges ($5.00) for replacing Bus ID.
- Conform to the same standards of conduct as expected of them in school. (Refer to Board Policies JK –Student Discipline, JIAA – Harassment and JFCE –Student Bullying.)
- Obey the bus driver and/or aide.
- Arrive on time according to the bus pick-up time.
- Remain on the sidewalk or out of traffic lanes while waiting for the bus.
- Respect the property of the residents while waiting for the bus.
- Stand a safe distance from the curb, wait until the door opens, and the driver signals to enter the bus.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Sit in designated seats if assigned.
- Be quiet when the driver approaches a railroad crossing stop.
- Wait to cross the street until after the driver signals and must be at least ten feet in front of the bus when crossing the street.
- Follow cell phone guidelines: No pictures, no taking videos, no sharing devices, no distraction to driver or other students while riding the bus.

Students will **not**:

- Carry large musical instruments on the bus.
- Extend head or limbs out of the window.
- Throw anything out of the window.
- Use profane or indecent language or gestures.
- Bring animals or pets on the bus.
- Eat, drink, or use tobacco on the bus.
- Use emergency door except in cases of emergency or safety drills.
- Carry weapons, explosives, matches, or fireworks on the bus (Refer to SDCL 13-32-7).

DISCIPLINE

Student behavior is expected to conform to reasonable rules. Failure to comply with these rules and procedures will result in school principals contacting students and parents/guardians. Please familiarize your students with what is expected.

The School District's "Rules of Student Conduct and Discipline" apply at bus stops and on school buses. Bus safety requires the cooperation of all involved.

For minor infractions of rules, the driver will give a verbal warning to the students involved. For repeated or major infractions, the driver will complete a student incident report and provide the report to the school principal. When necessary, building administrator(s) will be responsible for investigating and administering consequences for misconduct on the bus, according to the District's progressive discipline plan, Policy JK/JK-R, which may include suspension of bus privileges.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you move during the school year, you should contact your child's school in advance to ensure that your child's school bus service will not be interrupted.

COMPLAINTS OR QUESTIONS

Any parent/guardian who believes that the transportation services provided are not in compliance with Sioux Falls School District Policy and Regulation EE/EE-R should begin by contacting their principal. If unresolved at the building level, contact the supervisor of Transportation. If unresolved at the supervisor level, an appeal can be made to the Business Manager. School Board Policy KE –Public Concerns and Complaints – further outlines the District's complaint procedures.

Sioux Falls School District policies are available at www.sf.k12.sd.us.

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With the School District personnel and parents working together, efficient bus transportation and safety for the children will be achieved.

Sioux Falls School District 49-5



Visit our link: https://www.sf.k12.sd.us/page/bus-school

Revised July 2026

MIDDLE SCHOOL REGULAR EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION

Student _____

Bus # _____

Pick-up Time _____

Drop Time _____

Bus Stop Location _____