

Rules for Riding the School Bus

The driver is in full charge of the bus and pupils during periods in which students are being transported. Pupils must obey the driver promptly and willingly to avoid losing bus riding privileges.

Waiting for the Bus

- Be on time for the bus but do not arrive at the stop earlier than 10 minutes before the time at which the bus usually arrives.
- Observe all safety precautions while waiting for the bus:
 - Do not play in the roads
 - If possible, avoid crossing streets
 - Whenever you must cross a street, do so only if you are sure that no moving vehicles are approaching from either direction
 - Do not push, pull, or chase any other students
 - Avoid trespassing on private property and being noisy
- As your bus approaches, line up at least six feet off the highway; and do not approach the bus until it has stopped; and the driver has opened the door. Again, avoid pushing others in the line.

Conduct on the Bus:

- Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct must always be observed.
- Pupils are to assist in keeping the bus clean by keeping their wastepaper off the floor. Pupils will not throw refuse out of the windows. Eating and drinking is not allowed on the bus.
- No pupil will smoke or light matches on a school bus.
- No pupil shall at any time extend his or her head, hands or arms out of the windows, whether school bus is in motion or standing still.
- Pupils must see that they have nothing in their possession that may cause injury to another, such as sticks, breakable containers, any type of firearms, straps or pins extending from their clothing. Also, no animals/reptiles are permitted on the bus.
- Each pupil must see that his/her books and personal belongings are kept out of the aisle.
- Pupils should refrain from talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion except in the case of an emergency.
- No pupil shall sit in the driver's seat at any time.
- Pupils are to remain seated while the bus is in motion, and they are not to get on or off the bus until it has come to a full stop.
- Students' misconduct on a bus will be sufficient reason to discontinue providing bus transportation to those students involved.
- In the event of an actual emergency, emergency exit procedures, as established by the emergency exit drills, will be followed.
- Cell phones should not be used to record videos or take pictures while on the bus.
- Headphones must be used when listening to music, watching videos, or using devices, to avoid distracting the driver.

Loading the Bus

- Students should wait for the driver to give the thumbs-up signal before crossing the street to ensure it is safe to do so.

- Get on your bus quickly and be seated at once.
- Listen carefully and obey any directions issued by the driver.
- Pupils shall always ride their regularly assigned bus. Students may not ride buses other than those assigned.
- Unless written permission by the parent or guardian has been received and approved by the Principal, no pupil shall be permitted to leave the bus except at his or her regular stop.
- Each pupil may be assigned a seat in which he will be seated at all times, unless permission to change is given by the school principal and/or driver.

Unloading the Bus

- Do not leave your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver has opened the door.
- Again, obey any directions issued by the driver.
- Leave the bus quickly but in a courteous manner without pushing other students.
- If you must cross a street as you leave the school bus, be sure to walk in front of the bus (**never in back**) at a distance of at least 12 feet away from the bus. If you are too close to the front of the bus, the driver will not be able to see you, and a serious accident could occur. Students should wait for the driver to give the thumbs-up signal before crossing the street to ensure it is safe to do so.
- Again, be sure to observe all safety precautions as you travel from your bus stop to your home.
- Violation of the bus rules may result in loss of bus privileges.

Parents and Students:

- Discipline on school buses is probably one of the biggest problems confronting school bus drivers today. Much emphasis has rightly been placed on it by the public. Where once the burden of responsibility was placed only with the bus driver, it has become a community effort of cooperation with parents, school committee, administrators and bus driver. The Bus Contractor Terminal Manager may board bus in conjunction with the Building Principal to reemphasize the school bus rules and regulations.
- School bus transportation is an extension of a school classroom and should be carried over into the school bus in that manner.
- Parents of students damaging school buses will be responsible for proper reimbursement to the school district. Parents are not allowed to board a school bus without the expressed permission of the bus company. Concerns or complaints should be addressed through the School Principal.

Reference:

- <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/transportation/guide.html?section+policy>: Pupil Transportation Guide: A Guide for Massachusetts School Administrators-Transportation.

Cross References:

- Policy EEAEC (JICC): Student Conduct on School Buses