

SAFE RIDING PRACTICES

Students who distract the bus driver indirectly cause some accidents.

Good student behavior while entering, riding, or leaving the bus contributes in many ways to safe transportation. Such conduct makes it possible for the driver to give full attention to the routine matters involved in the safe operation of the bus, and holds to a minimum, those conditions that might cause students to be injured.

Fighting on the bus, any movement out of the seats, excessive noise, and boisterous conduct are examples of things that are very distracting to the driver. It is the student's responsibility to have and maintain good behavior on the bus. If they practice good behavior, it will make for a safer ride for everyone on the bus.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

Parents are expected to have their children ready on time and to inform them that they are to maintain good behavior at the bus stop as well as on the bus.

An open line of communication must be maintained between parent, school authorities and the bus driver, so that when problems do develop, parents are aware of them.

OBJECTS THAT CANNOT BE TRANSPORTED ON THE BUS

LIVE ANIMALS	LASERS / KNIVES & GUNS
REPTILES	GLASS & SHARP OBJECTS
INSECTS	TOY WEAPON LOOK-A-LIKES
SCOOTERS & SKATEBOARDS	TOBACCO PRODUCTS
ROLLER BLADES & ROLLERSKATES	BALLOONS
MEDICATION (including over the counter)	AEROSOL CANS
LARGE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS	MATCHES OR LIGHTERS

**AND ANY OBJECT WHICH THE DRIVER FEELS CAN CAUSE AN UNSAFE BUS RIDING SITUATION
Students will be instructed to leave these items at the bus stop A.M. or school P.M.**

WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL BUS STOPS

When walking to and from bus stops, students should be respectful of other people's property. If at any time they cross the street, be sure to look both ways. They should walk on the sidewalk or the side of the roadway. (Never in the street) and not go onto people's property unless prior permission has been given. Go directly to the bus stop. Any playing around on the way could mean missing the bus. When approaching the bus stop, if the bus is already at the stop, do not run towards the bus. **If the student is on the other side of the street, wait for the driver to exit the bus and cross the student.** Students should be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.

If a student is walking to a bus stop, but is too far away for the driver to see them, and is seen after the bus leaves the stop, the driver **cannot** stop to pick up the student. **The bus can only stop at designated bus stops.**

LOADING AND UNLOADING PROCEDURES AND GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT AT SCHOOL BUS LOADING ZONES

Students are expected to practice good conduct at the bus stops. There should be no playing in the street, rock throwing, fighting, or property damage while waiting for the bus. Students should be lined up and ready to board when they see the bus approaching. There should be no shoving or pushing in line. This behavior could be very unsafe as the bus is approaching the stop. Students should wait until the driver sets the parking brake, activates the **red flashing lights**, and opens the door before moving towards the bus.

If the students cannot conduct themselves properly, at a bus stop, they may be issued a WARNING or BUS SUSPENSION NOTICE.

UNLOADING

When the bus stops at the stop, there are certain procedures the law requires the driver to follow.

- The children must remain seated until the bus has come to a full stop, the engine has been turned off, the parking brake has been set and the red flashing lights have been activated. The children that must cross the street are to be the first ones off the bus, and crossed by the driver. All others need to remain seated until the driver gets back on the bus.
- When the driver is crossing children, the children must remain on the side of the roadway or sidewalk, until the driver instructs them to cross the street. They should cross between the bus and the driver. It is important for them to walk and not run. Go directly across the street to the other side and do not stand in the street. It is the driver's responsibility to see that they are completely across the street. When the driver returns to the bus, the students not crossing the street may get off the bus.
- Statistics show that most injuries and fatal accidents happen during loading and unloading. Children need to know that there is a danger zone around the bus where the driver cannot see them in their mirrors. When the child exits the bus, they need to be ten feet away from the sides of the bus to be clear of the danger zone. At this point the driver can clearly see them in their mirrors as they are pulling away from the stop.
- Knowing the loading and unloading procedures helps to make for a safer ride.

DANGER ZONE

There is a DANGER ZONE twelve feet wide that completely surrounds the bus. There are areas in this danger zone where the driver cannot see the students out of any of the mirrors. It is important for the student to know where the danger zone is to avoid these areas.