



WEST BLOOMFIELD
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SCHOOL BUS
SAFETY & CONDUCT**



RULES & REGULATIONS

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE
FOR
STUDENTS & PARENTS**

Nationwide, nearly 24 million students ride on a school bus every day and while school buses have consistently proven, by far, to be the safest mode of transportation for students to get to and from school, there are inherent potential dangers on and around the school bus that are not present during the rest of a student's day at school.

Safety is the first and most important priority of every school bus transportation professional, from mechanics to administrators - and especially the school bus drivers. Safety requires a team effort from everyone, including students and parents. We encourage you to spend a few moments reviewing the information provided here with your child or children who will be riding the bus.

BE SAFE AND ENJOY THE RIDE!

Safety & Conduct ON the Bus

While the atmosphere on the bus is certainly more relaxed than in the classroom, students should be reminded that in addition to the safety and conduct rules listed here and specific to riding the bus, the Student Code of Conduct (available on the West Bloomfield School District website) is in effect while students are riding the bus or at the bus stops.

Please observe the following while riding on the school bus: _____

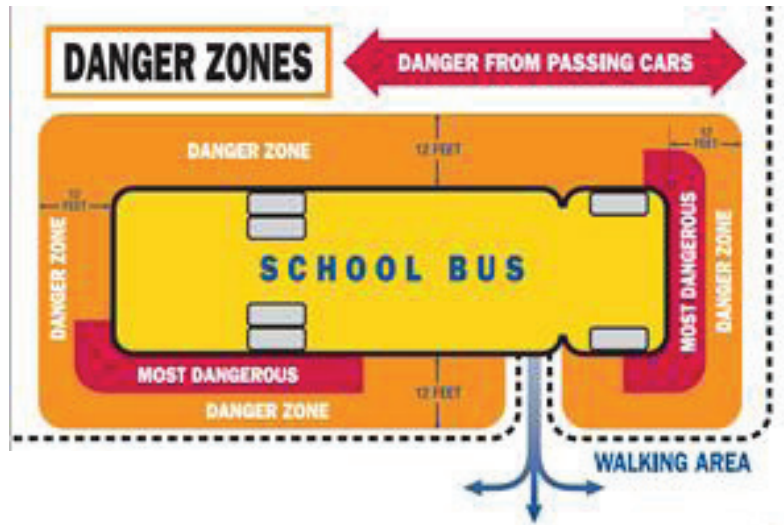
- ⬡ Harassing and bullying behavior is taken very seriously by the West Bloomfield School District and will not be tolerated anywhere on school property, including school buses and school bus stops. Please treat your fellow students with respect, as you would wish to be treated. Parents, drivers cannot hear everything that is said on a school bus. If your child is experiencing harassing or bullying behavior please have him/her speak to the driver or parents may contact the Transportation office.
- ⬡ Please keep your hands and feet to yourselves! Poking, prodding, pushing, hitting, kicking – even when done in jest with a friend – can be interpreted as bullying behavior even if not intended as such. Furthermore, this kind of roughhousing behavior is one way accidents can happen.
- ⬡ Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion.
- ⬡ Keep your head, hands and arms completely inside the windows at all times.
- ⬡ Keep aisles clear of feet, legs and personal items at all times. School books and other personal items should be kept in a book bag on your lap or on the floor in front of you.
- ⬡ Remain quiet and orderly. Keep your voice at classroom level. Remember, if you create a noise level that is distracting to your bus driver, you could be putting yourself, as well as other students on board, in a dangerous situation.
- ⬡ Do not use profanity.
- ⬡ Never throw **ANYTHING** out of the school bus windows.
- ⬡ Do not eat or drink on the bus. Parents should take note, especially for smaller children, that eating snacks or candy on the school bus can cause a choking hazard due to the motion and bouncing of the school bus on the roadway.
- ⬡ Keep the bus clean. Do not write on or otherwise damage the seats or seat backs.
- ⬡ Please listen to and follow all instructions given by your school bus driver. The driver is authorized to assign permanent seats on the bus for any students who do not follow the rules.

Safety & Conduct AROUND the Bus

While statistics show that the school bus is the safest mode of transportation to get students to and from school, accidents can happen and the most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the bus. National statistics show that of all school bus accidents involving serious injury or fatalities, nearly 75% are pedestrian accidents that occur off the bus, at or around school bus stops and involve students being hit by passing vehicles or their own school bus.

It is vitally important that students be aware of and closely follow the rules in this section for their own safety.

The area twelve (12) feet (approximately six steps) on either side, behind and in front of the bus is known as “the danger zone.” This is the area where most accidents at bus stops occur. Students should NEVER be in this area except to enter and leave the door of the bus. Always remember that, in spite of the number of mirrors on the bus, there are many areas within the “danger zone” that the driver cannot see.



- ⬡ If you drop something in the danger zone or under the bus, NEVER try to retrieve it yourself. Let the driver know immediately.
- ⬡ NEVER cross the roadway behind the school bus. If you need to cross the roadway at your bus stop, either in the morning or afternoon, wait at the curb (at least ten feet in front of the bus) for the driver’s signal that it is safe to cross (more on this below).

At the Bus Stop In the Morning

- ⬡ Leave your home early enough to arrive at your bus stop at least ten (10) minutes before your bus is scheduled to arrive. Do not be late - the driver cannot wait for you.
- ⬡ Line up at the stop at least ten (10) feet from the roadway. No pushing, horseplay or ball playing at the bus stop.
- ⬡ **DO NOT MOVE TOWARDS THE BUS UNTIL THE BUS HAS COME TO A COMPLETE STOP AND THE BUS DOOR HAS OPENED!** This rule is always in effect, but is especially important in inclement weather when the roadway may be slippery.
- ⬡ If you are late to your stop and the bus door has closed, move away from the bus immediately and **NEVER, EVER CHASE THE BUS.** This could lead to tragic consequences and it would be far better for you to find another way to school.

Safety & Conduct AROUND the Bus

At the Bus Stop In the Afternoon

- When arriving at your stop, remain seated and do not begin moving down the aisle of the bus until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has opened the door.
- If you are not getting off at the stop, please be courteous to your fellow students and remember to keep your feet, legs and personal items out of the aisle.
- Bus steps can be slippery, especially in inclement weather. Please use the handrails when getting off the bus.
- When you get off the bus, walk at least **TEN** (10) feet straight ahead, away from the door of the bus and out of the school bus "danger zone." No horseplay, ball playing or other similar activity at the stop until the bus has left.
- NEVER** cross the street behind the bus. The driver cannot monitor opposing traffic and see that you get safely across the street unless you cross in front of the bus.
- If you do need to cross the street at the bus stop, quickly move to a point on the curb at least ten (10) feet (5 normal steps for older students and 5 "giant" steps for elementary students) in front of the bus. Wait at the curb until the driver signals you to cross in front of the bus.
- The crossing signal used in West Bloomfield is a two-sided paddle (see RIGHT) with a red **STOP** sign on one side and a **GREEN** walking pedestrian on the other. When the driver shows you the green side of the paddle you may proceed to cross in front of the bus. Even though the driver has signaled that you may cross, you should stop at the edge of the driver's side of the bus and look both ways before proceeding to cross the street.



- If the driver blows the horn while you are crossing in front of the bus, **STOP IMMEDIATELY** and return to the curb. The horn means that the driver has spotted a potentially dangerous situation. **DO NOT PROCEED TO CROSS THE STREET** until the driver signals you that the danger is no longer present.
- If you are having a friend ride home with you, they must have a note signed by a parent and stamped by the school office. The same holds true for you if you are riding home with a friend on a different bus. Also, students may only get off the bus at their designated stop unless the driver is provided with a note, signed by a parent, giving permission for the student to get off the bus at a different stop on the route.



Important Kindergarten and First Grade Student Information

Please meet your child's/children's home bound bus so the driver is aware that the child is safe. We will not drop off small children unattended. If no one is at the stop to meet the child, the child will be returned to their school and it will be **your** responsibility to pick them up. If the school is closed and cannot receive a returned child, they will be taken to the nearest police station and you will be required to pick them up there.

The Transportation Department and its office staff are not a licensed daycare center. We will not attend a child who cannot be delivered to their home after school. If it becomes a continuous problem that there is not a responsible person at the bus stop when a child is to be dropped off, it will force the **Transportation Department** to **refuse** transportation for that child until there is assurance from the parent that someone will be available, on a daily basis, to receive the child when they arrive at the stop.

HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!

***ENJOY YOUR TIME ON THE BUS, AND
ALWAYS THINK **SAFETY!!*****