

Rockford Area Schools Transportation Overview

Bus Safety for Students

ISD 883 and our Transportation Service Providers are committed to maintaining a safe, respectful environment while transporting all students to and from school. All students are expected to show respect toward the bus driver, fellow students, and their property. Harassment in any form will not be tolerated. Every student, public, non-public, and charter, regardless of age, is responsible for following the rules in the Student Handbook and the rules outlined in this guide. Due to time and safety concerns, parents are not allowed on the bus.

Getting to the bus stop safely

When going to the bus stop, students are expected to:

- » Use the sidewalk where one is provided.
- » Walk on the left shoulder of the street or roadway facing traffic, single file or no more than two abreast when there are no sidewalks

Safety at the bus stop

At the bus stop, students are expected to:

- » Arrive five minutes before their scheduled pick-up time.
- » Be cooperative and respectful of property (parents are responsible for their child's behavior at the bus stop).
- » Stay a safe distance back from the curb and wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
- » Never accept rides from strangers, even though the student may have missed the bus.

Boarding the bus safely *When boarding the bus, students are expected to:*

- » Remain on the side of the street they reside on; if students must cross the street, they should walk 10 steps in front of the bus.
- » Stop, look at the bus driver, and wait until the driver gives a hand signal to cross; then look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- » Walk quickly across the street, without stopping, turning back, or running.
- » Enter in an orderly manner using the handrails; no pushing, shoving, or crowding.

Safe behavior on the bus

On the bus, students are expected to:

- » Take a seat promptly, remain seated, and avoid moving around while the bus is in motion. » Once students board the bus, they must remain on the bus until they have reached their school or designated stop.
- » Follow the instructions of the driver and/or assistant promptly and respectfully. » Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself; no pushing, shoving, or horseplay.
- » Do not put head, arms, feet, or any object out of the window.
- » Respect the vehicle (students will be charged for damage/vandalism to the bus).
- » Transport only items that fit on a student's lap.
- » Do not handle any of the bus safety equipment, unless directed by the driver (first aid kit, reflectorized triangles and the emergency door/window latches are for emergency use only).
- » Do not bring weapons, flammable materials, or any other dangerous or objectionable items on the bus.
- » Do not fight, use abusive language/gestures, light incendiary devices, or use tobacco products. » Do not throw, flip or propel objects on the bus or out the windows.
- » Do not eat, drink or bring live animals on the bus.

Leaving the bus safely

When leaving the bus, students are expected to:

- » Remain seated until the bus has completely stopped and then exit without pushing or crowding.
- » Use the handrail when leaving the bus.
- » Move away from the bus after stepping onto the curb.
- » If students must cross the street, they should walk 10 feet ahead of the bus. Stop, look at the bus driver, and wait until the driver gives a hand signal to cross; then look left, right, and left again before proceeding. Walk quickly across the street, without stopping, turning back, or running.

What do I need to do so my child will have a successful bus ride to/from school?

- » Arrange for your students to be at their bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- » Monitor children from damaging the property of others at the bus stop.
- » Be aware that the bus will pick up and drop off students at the same stop every day school is in session.
- » Help your children learn their bus numbers and appropriate paths to/from the bus stop to home.
- » Review the bus safety rules outlined in this book with your children.
- » Accompany younger children to the bus stop and meet the bus at the end of the day for the first days of school, or arrange for an older child or child care provider to be at the bus stop for the first days of school.
- » Understand that the bus pick-up and drop-off times are based on existing weather and road conditions. Traffic congestion, road construction, inclement weather, and population changes may cause minor adjustments in pick-up and drop-off times. Parents will be notified of any major changes in bus schedules that affect their children.

Student Behavior

Minnesota Statute 121A.59, Bus Transportation is a Privilege Not a Right Transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right, for an eligible student. A student's eligibility to ride a school bus may be revoked for a violation of school bus safety or conduct policies, or for violation of any other law governing student conduct on a school bus, pursuant to a written school district discipline policy. Revocation of a student's bus-riding privilege is not an exclusion, expulsion, or suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Revocation procedures for a student who is an individual with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, United States Code, title 20, section 1400 et seq., section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, United States Code, title 29, section 794, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336, are governed by these provisions.

All students, public, non-public, and charter, are expected to behave in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and rules, and with District and school policies and regulations, and in a way that respects the rights and safety of others. Corrective action to discipline a student and/or to modify a student's behavior will be taken by staff when a student's behavior does not fall within these parameters. A number of our buses are equipped with a video camera that records video and audio to monitor student behavior. We have found the cameras to be valuable for resolving student behavior issues.

Bus Referral Process:

All students who ride district buses are expected to follow all bus rules. All school rules apply while riding the buses. If a student violates bus rules, drivers will forward a referral to the school administrator who will investigate and issue a consequence listed below. The following guidelines will be used for major bus referrals:

- 1st report: Verbal and or written warning.
- 2nd report: Detention and/or 1 to 3-day suspension of bus privileges.
- 3rd report: 1 to 5 or more day suspension of bus privileges.
- 4th report: 5 to 10-day suspension from bus riding privileges
- 5th report: Suspension of bus privileges for the remainder of the year

Repeated minor violations may be considered as a referral.

- Principals(or School Staff) are not allowed to permit students to ride buses other than their assigned buses.
- Students cannot ride other students' buses unless there is a family emergency

- Parents are responsible for making these arrangements before school with Rockford Bus service (763-477-6100)

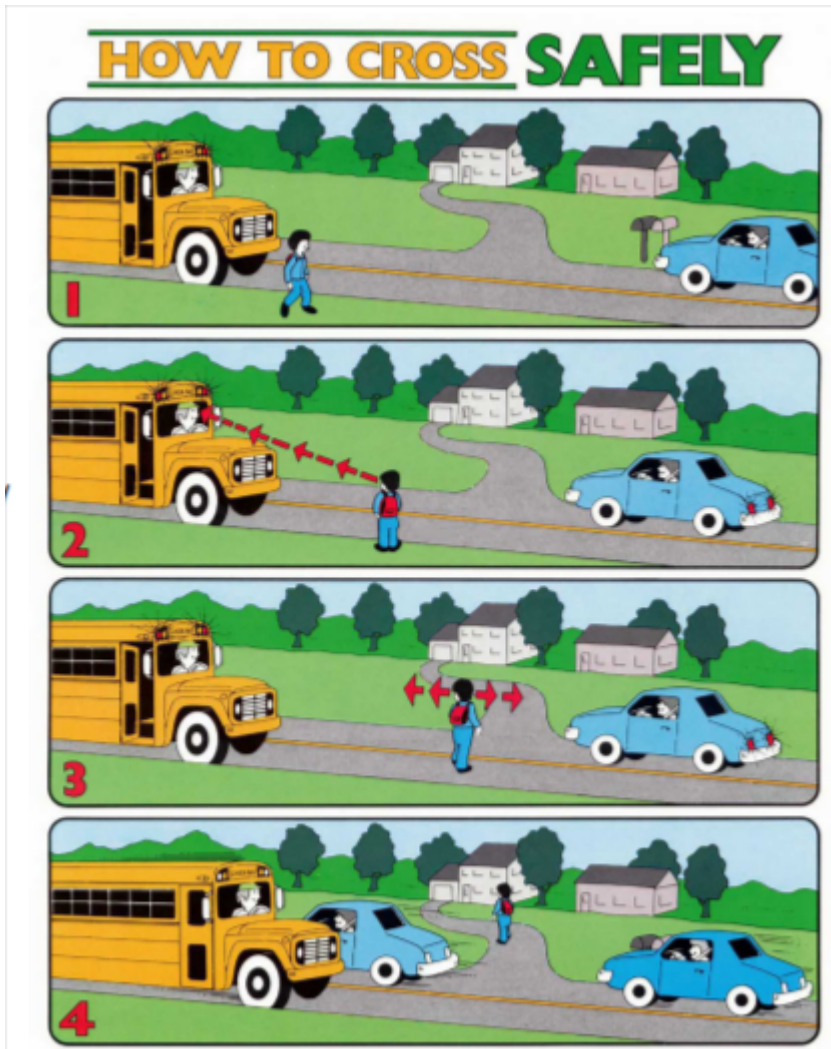
Be a good neighbor

Students are expected to respect neighbors' property as they go to or from the bus stop or wait for the bus. Good neighbors do not:

- » Litter.
- » Walk on lawns.
- » Pick flowers or other plants from lawns or gardens.
- » Throw stones, snowballs, or other objects.
- » Leave objects lying across curbs or sidewalks where they might trip other students or adults.
- » Climb trees, fences, or retaining walls.

A Message to Motorists on the Road

Safety is everyone's responsibility, please know and obey school bus laws. Motorists who fail to stop for a school bus with RED LIGHTS FLASHING AND STOP ARM EXTENDED may be charged with a gross misdemeanor punishable by a \$700 to \$3,000 fine and/or one year in jail. Flashing amber (yellow) lights are a warning that the bus is preparing to stop. Flashing red lights and extended stop arm means that the bus is stopped either to load or unload passengers.



NWSISD

We expect that each student who uses Northwest Suburban Integration School District Transportation through our Magnet programming take the time to read through the entirety of [this webpage](#) that highlights the service provided to you and processes pertaining to transportation. We especially encourage you to read through the section pertaining to Weather Related School Delays.

Transportation from RMS-CES to RHS/RCC

Middle school students are eligible to ride an after-school district bus to the RHS/RCC if they meet the following criteria:

1) The student is a registered athlete who is participating during the current season (fall, winter or spring). 2) The student is at least 12 years old and has an active membership at the RCC. 3) The student is registered for a current Community Education program.

All students using transportation from RMS-CES to RHS/RCC are expected to communicate with their parents/guardians and arrange transportation home.

Bus Expectations Overview:

WHEN USING THE BUS I CAN:

- Sit in my assigned seat, face forward at all times
- Respect other students and their personal property
- Arrive at bus stop early and wait safely for the bus to stop
- Keep my arms, legs, and body inside the bus and my personal items in my seat or on my lap
- Follow the directions of the driver or other adults
- Talk quietly and use appropriate language
- Keep the bus clean and save food or drinks for another time
- Use appropriate behavior by not yelling, fighting, or distracting the driver.
- Respect the bus when riding and the property of others when at the bus stop
- Ride only my assigned bus to my assigned bus stop
- Use headphones/earbuds or keep the volume low on phones or electronic devices
- Make sure prohibited items (weapons, sports gear, etc.), tobacco, alcohol and other substances stay off the bus.

RIDE SAFE

RULES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE SCHOOL BUS

- ✓ BE SAFE
- ✓ BE RESPECTFUL
- ✓ BE RESPONSIBLE

SCHOOL BUS

ISD 883

Bus Poster.jpg