

Students

Bus Conduct

School transportation is an extension of the school day. Students are expected to conduct themselves in the same appropriate manner on the bus as they do in the school building. Students are advised that while awaiting or receiving transportation to and from school, they may be suspended for conduct which endangers persons or property or violates Board of Education Policy and Administrative Regulations. School administration shall follow procedures in BOE Policy 5131 (Conduct & Discipline) when suspending bus privileges and/or suspending or expelling a student from school.

Bus Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to maintain an orderly atmosphere when on the bus. Safety is paramount. The following expectations allow for safe and efficient school transportation for all students:

- Be at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes prior to bus arrival.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching. Cross the road only when the bus driver signals that it is safe to do so.
- Always follow the bus driver's directions and requests.
- Stay in your seat while the bus is moving. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before standing to get off.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Keep the aisle clear of backpacks and carry-on items.
- Talk quietly and respectfully. Derogatory and obscene language is prohibited.
- Food and beverages are not allowed to be consumed on the bus at any time.
- The use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, vapes, or any controlled substance in any form on a school bus is prohibited by state law.
- Do not damage or deface the bus in any way. The student will be liable for any damage.

The bus driver is in charge of the bus and student safety. The bus driver will not permit violation of the established bus expectations and/or Board of Education policies. If a student breaks any of the expectations, Board policies, or fails to follow the bus driver's directions, the bus driver will report the infraction to a school administrator in writing with a copy of the report going to the bus company. The school administrator will notify the parent of the report.

Be advised that when students are awaiting or receiving transportation to and from school, they may be suspended from transportation services for improper conduct which endangers persons or property or violates Board Policy and Administrative Regulations. School administration shall follow procedures in Policy 5131 on Student Conduct and Discipline when suspending bus privileges.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility

Parents/Guardians are responsible for ensuring the safety of their students up until the point when students board the school bus and after students get off the bus after school. This

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responsibility includes the selection of walking routes to/from any bus stop and the provision of supervision that is appropriate to the student's age, maturity, and conditions along the walking route and/or at the bus stop.

Bus Routes & Stops

The Amity Regional School District No. 5 Board of Education is committed to providing an effective, efficient, and safe transportation system for all students. Bus routes and stops will be established in accordance with Board of Education Policy 3541. Routes shall equalize, as nearly as possible, the length of routes and bus loads as close to bus capacity as possible and shall provide student transportation to and from schools within prescribed time limits. Generally, bus routes shall begin no earlier than 60 minutes before school opens, and students shall not be in transit from school more than 60 minutes. By mid-August each year, student school bus schedules and stops will be developed by the Transportation Coordinator. Bus routes will be published on the District website prior to the opening of school.

Permission to Ride on a Different Bus

All school buses have an approved seating capacity which cannot be exceeded. School bus routes are planned based on the maximum use of seated capacity. However, exceptions may be made for permanent changes or students may receive temporary permission (middle school only).

Long-term changes – Students may receive permission to ride on a different bus for the purpose of home care/childcare arrangements or for the purpose of work/employment. Requests for long-term, consistent changes in bus transportation must be made writing to the Transportation Coordinator.

Temporary (Daily) changes (Middle School Students only) – Middle school students may receive permission to ride a different bus home (i.e. to a friend's house) on a temporary, daily basis. A note from the student's parent/guardian must be received before permission will be given. The student will receive a pass from the school office that will allow them to ride a different bus. Arrangements to ride a different bus must be made ahead of time; students will not be permitted to contact home to make the arrangements during the school day.

Bus Stop Location Change Process

The Amity Regional School District does not provide "door to door" bus service. Students in middle and high school are expected to walk to and use neighborhood bus stops when feasible. Bus stops changes will be made only for safety concerns. The process to request a change in the location of a bus stop is listed below:

Step 1 - Email the Amity Transportation Coordinator, Troy Sorensen at csorensenllc@gmail.com. An appropriate investigation and decision will be completed in a timely manner.

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Step 2 – Parent/Guardian may submit a written appeal of the Transportation Coordinator’s decision to the School Principal. The Principal will review the decision and the appeal and will respond to the parent within 5 school days.

Step 3 – Parent/Guardian may submit a written appeal of the Principal’s decision to the Amity Director of Finance. The Director will review the decision and the appeal and will respond to the parent within 10 school days. Consultation with local law enforcement officials may occur as part of the review process.

Step 4 – Parent/Guardian may submit a written appeal of the Director of Finance’s decision to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will review the decision and the appeal and will respond to the parent within 10 school days.

Step 5 - Parent/Guardian may submit a written appeal of the Superintendent’s decision to the Chair of the Board of Education. The Chair will designate a committee of the Board to review the decision and the appeal and will respond to the parent in writing.