

Bus Safety Procedures

The primary mission of the Dade County School Transportation Department is to provide students with safe and secure transportation to and from school in a friendly environment that enhances the total learning process.

To accomplish this mission, we will:

- promote mutual respect and understanding;
- model courtesy with students, parents and our colleagues;
- help students to start and end their school day with a smile;
- greet all who enter our environment with a smile, encouragement, and a happy attitude;
- develop and Improve communications with teachers, staff, parents and students;
- ensure that our buses function at the highest possible levels of safety, cleanliness and comfort;
- maintain professional conduct and appearance at all times for both students and the public;
- enhance the public's perception of the Dade County School District through excellence In transportation;
- initiate public safety and awareness in and for everyone we serve;
- promote our team spirit of excellence in all undertakings.

For the safety of all, students should comply with the following (*These rules will be posted on each bus*):

1. Students will follow directions of the driver.
2. Students should be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives, waiting in a safe place, clear of traffic and 12 feet from-where the bus stops.
3. Students will cross the roadways in front of the bus after the bus has stopped, they have looked at the driver for a hand signal, and they have looked in both directions for traffic: left, right, left.
4. Students will go directly to a seat when entering the bus. Keep the aisles and exits clear.
5. Students will remain properly seated: back against the back of the seat, bottom against the bottom of the seat, and keep hands to themselves.
6. Students will not eat, drink or bring tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substances on the bus.
7. Students will not carry animals, glass objects, nuisance items, hazardous materials, or weapons onto the bus. Students may carry only objects that can be held in their laps.
8. Students will refrain from using loud voices, profanity, and/or obscene gestures, and respect the rights and safety of others.
9. Students will stay seated until time to get off the bus. The open door is the signal to get up from the bus seat.
10. Students are expected to ride the bus to which they have been assigned and to get off at their assigned bus stop. Only in the event of an emergency, as determined by the principal or their representative, will a student be allowed to ride a different bus. Notification of this emergency must be sent to school in a written note signed by the parent/guardian. The school administrator may provide a bus pass granting permission.

Bus Expectations:

Be Respectful

- of the bus driver
- of the bus
- of yourself & other

Use Self-control

- waiting for the bus
- loading the bus
- during the bus route

Safety is PRIORITY

- for yourself
- for the bus driver
- for ALL students on the bus

Possible Consequences for Bus Misconduct:

- Warning
- Parent/guardian contact by bus driver and/or Director of Transportation
- Parent/guardian conference with bus driver, Director of Transportation, and/or school administrator
- Reassigned seating as prescribed by bus driver and/or Director of Transportation
- Behavior contract signed by student, parent/guardian, bus driver, Director of Transportation, and/or school administrator
- Short- or Long-term removal from the school bus

***Important:** School and/or district level administration is not limited to the above actions. The administration may utilize other measures and/or consequences to ensure SAFETY for ALL students. The administrators will consider the current situation and/or circumstances to make informed decisions in the best interest of the student(s) being transported on the school bus.