



**Dr. Drew Olson, Director
Student Transportation Services**

Student Transportation Services

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SCHOOL BUS RULES

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

Student Transportation Services is pleased to provide bus transportation for our students and consider it a vital part of the educational process.

Our number one priority is safety. Each transported student has the right to a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school which is free from intimidation, threat, or harassment. In order to accomplish this goal, we need the cooperation of all student bus riders. Good student behavior while entering, riding, and departing the bus contribute in many ways to safe transportation. Such conduct makes it viable for the driver to devote full attention to the roadway and all surroundings, ensuring all passengers arrive safely to their destination in a timely manner.

Riding the school bus is a privilege – not a right. A school bus is an extension of a school classroom; therefore, students are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner as identified in the Student Code of Conduct handbook. Inappropriate student behavior can cause the driver to become distracted, increasing the risk of a bus being involved in an accident. To avoid bus referrals and bus suspension, students should abide by the following bus expectations:

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes ahead of the scheduled time.
2. Follow the instructions given by the bus driver and/or bus attendant.
3. Be seated immediately, face forward, and remain seated at all times.
4. Smoking, eating, drinking, fighting, profanity, creating loud disturbances are strictly prohibited.
5. Keep all body parts and objects to yourself and inside the bus.
6. Conduct yourself on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. See that the student(s) arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes ahead of the scheduled time.
2. Per Florida Statute, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for their student's safety at the bus stop.
3. Read, review, and discuss the school bus rules and student code of conduct.
4. Ensure that preschool and kindergarten students are met at the afternoon bus stop by the parent/guardian or designated individual.
 - a. The bus must remain on schedule.
 - b. Students that are not met at the bus stop will be contacted to pick up the student:
 - i. One of the remaining bus stops on the current route.
 - ii. The next identified school of service.
 - c. If Dispatch is unable to contact the parent/guardian, student will be returned to school.
5. Bring proper identification to the afternoon bus stop for release of student(s).
 - a. Students will not be released without proper identification.

Your student's safety is very important to us. Please take a moment to review this valuable information with your student(s). By working together, we can maintain a safe and enjoyable bus experience for all students.

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To help in making your children's bus trip safe and enjoyable, they should know the following safety rules:

Waiting for the School Bus

- Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
- Stay a safe distance from the road-at least 10'.
- Be at the stop ten minutes early. The driver has a schedule to keep and cannot wait.
- Be in line when the school bus approaches.
- Stay clear of the road by at least 10' until the school bus comes to a complete stop.
- Do not play or push others.
- Do not pick up anything you dropped near the bus.
- Cross the road in front of the bus only when given permission by the bus driver and the stop arm is activated.
- Never speak to strangers at the bus stop or get into any vehicle with a stranger.

Boarding & Unloading off of the School Bus

- Let the smaller children board first.
- Always use the handrail and go up and down the steps one at a time.
- Don't push, crowd, or disturb others.
- Enter your student ID code when boarding and exiting.
- Present a boarding pass if you are not assigned to the bus.
- Go to your seat, buckle up, and be seated.
- No animals of any kind are allowed.
- No large objects of any kind that can cause a disturbance or safety concern.
- No smoking, eating, drinking, profanity, chewing tobacco, or using drugs of any kind.

Cooperating with the Driver and Attendant

- The bus driver will assign seats for all students.
- Obey your bus driver and bus attendant. They have safety for all in mind.
- Students may not have anything that could cause injury to others.
- Place books and other gear on your lap.
- Keep the aisles and exits clear.
- Wait until the bus completely stops before standing.
- Get off the bus only at your assigned bus stop.
- Do not open the window without asking the bus driver or bus attendant.
- Do not interfere with or distract the bus driver.
- Keep head and arms inside the bus and keep your feet on the floor.
- Do not throw objects inside or out of the bus.
- No smoking, eating, drinking, chewing tobacco or using drugs.
- Do not vandalize the bus. Help keep it clean.
- The emergency door and exit controls may be used only during supervised drills or actual emergencies.
- Everyone must demonstrate good citizenship by cooperating with school bus drivers.