

MCCSD TRANSPORTATION
FOR INFORMATION CALL (631)285-8880

TO: ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS

FROM: LISA MYERS, TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATOR

RE: **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

DATE: AUGUST 2025

One of the most important parts of your child's daily educational program is the necessary trip to and from school. To keep our children safe, our buses are maintained and inspected by our mechanics and inspectors from the NYS Department of Transportation. All 66-passenger, 60-passenger and 30-passenger buses are equipped with a child check system. The child check system requires a driver to check their bus for sleeping children. Safety must also be the concern of all students, and a large part of that safety is directly related to their attitude and behavior while on and around school buses. Listed below are some considerations you may find helpful. I hope you will share them with your child(ren):

1. Eligible students should use only the bus stop they are assigned. **Please keep your child's bus route number on hand to refer to when making inquiries to the Transportation Department.**
2. Please provide all students in Kindergarten and 1st grade with a note or tag indicating their name, address, telephone number, school they attend, and their grade. This will help the bus driver, in the beginning of the year, to know the children. This procedure will also help substitute bus drivers during the year.
3. Items carried to and from school, such as instruments, projects, athletic equipment etc. **MUST BE SMALL ENOUGH** to be carried by the students and be held **COMFORTABLY ON THEIR LAPS** while traveling to school and back home. Objects larger than "lap size" would require special transportation by the parent.
4. Balloons, skateboards, in-line skates, sneakers with roller balls and carriers with wheels are not permitted on the bus.
5. Pets or animals of any variety, size, shape, breed, etc. **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** on the school bus at any time or under any circumstances.
6. **NO flammable substances shall be allowed on the bus.**
7. All students should be directed to **NEVER CROSS BEHIND THE BUS**. Students who must cross the road should go 10 feet **IN FRONT OF THE BUS** and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Students standing closer to the bus will not be able to see and follow the bus driver's signal to cross the street.

STUDENTS SHOULD NEVER CROSS BEHIND THE BUS

HELP US PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN AS THEY TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Basic safety rules are outlined below and I ask that you review them with your child(ren):

1. Board and leave the bus carefully. Do not push on or near the bus. Do not run to or from the bus.
2. **CROSS THE STREET ONLY AFTER GIVEN THE “ALL-CLEAR” SIGN BY THE BUS DRIVER. CROSS IN FRONT OF THE BUS ONLY.**
3. Stay in your seat at all times. Standing or changing seats while the bus is moving is not permitted.
4. Eating and drinking on the bus is prohibited.
5. Talk in a reasonable tone. Do not yell or make loud noises that can cause a distraction for the bus driver.
6. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices to take pictures or record videos is prohibited.
7. Never distract the bus driver unless an extreme emergency exists.
8. Obey the bus driver’s requests promptly at all times while on the bus, crossing the street, boarding and leaving the bus.
9. While waiting for the bus, stand well back toward the side of the road or the curb of the street, until the bus comes to a full stop. **STAY OUT OF THE STREET AND BE WATCHFUL!!**
10. Always respect the private property of others at or near the bus stop.
11. Speeding cars are always a danger to students waiting at bus stops. Stay alert.
12. Stay away from the Danger Zones around the bus.
13. Don’t try to pick up something dropped near the bus – the bus driver might not see you.

Certain types of clothing can create a hazard as your child gets on and off the school bus. Especially dangerous are:

- * Long, dangling jacket or sweatshirt drawstrings
- * Long backpack straps
- * Long scarves or other loose clothing

Such clothing can be caught in the bus handrail, door or other equipment as the child gets on or off the bus.

Please take the time to check your children’s clothing to make sure it is safe.

We also request that students be at the stop at least 10 minutes prior to pick-up time. Parents should supervise students at bus stops. Your cooperation is essential to the safe operation of our buses. Safe operation of our school buses guarantees your own safety.

Suspension from the bus may result from dangerous actions by students. Suspensions may also result if a student presents a persistent discipline problem. Conduct or actions that will lead to an immediate suspension are: smoking, vandalism, extending any part of the body out the window, fighting, operating any of the controls or interfering with the operation of controls on the bus.

Students must understand that bus drivers must concentrate on the road in order to operate the bus safely. The students must also understand that the bus driver has the same authority over the students as a teacher would have in a classroom. If the students understand that the bus driver

has the responsibility and authority, they will respond positively to the bus driver's directions and requests. Your sharing this information with your child will help to provide safe transportation for them. They are a key part in the safe operation of our buses.

According to NYS School Law, no parent is required to be at the bus stop to receive their child regardless of the child's grade or age. However, MCCSD policy requires a parent or guardian to receive any **Kindergarten and/or 1st Grade** student being discharged from the bus. There is no such requirement for any other grade. Please complete the K-1 Bus Stop Safety Release form to designate anyone who is permitted to receive your child(ren). You may also use this form for students in grades other than kindergarten and first grade if you want to limit who may take your child(ren) from the bus.

All buses used in transportation service for the district are equipped with video recording systems. Video footage may be used by a building administrator in the investigation of a reported behavioral issue or bus incident. In order to protect the privacy of all passengers, parents are not permitted to view bus videos.

If you have questions or concerns regarding student transportation, please call (631)285-8880. **Please know your child's bus route number when making inquiries to the Transportation Department.**

- * Remember that other motorists don't always stop for a stopped school bus – use extreme caution whenever getting on or off the bus.**

**SCHOOL BUS SAFETY IS A TEAM EFFORT –
NOTHING IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN
A CHILD'S LIFE**