

TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

Bus Stops

Children are transported to and from their assigned bus stops, located near their homes, five days a week. The AM and PM stops must be the same. Exceptions to this practice include:

1. Day Care/Baby-Sitter

The board's only responsibility is to transport eligible students to and from their homes. Children will be picked-up and dropped-off at a day care center or baby-sitter on a five days a week basis **ONLY** if there is room on the bus. Parents are encouraged to have the AM and PM stops be the same. **In the case of a hardship, the AM stop and PM stop may be different provided the AM stop is the same five days per week and the PM stop (although different than the AM stop) is the same five days per week. In no case, will a student be scheduled to ride two different busses. The request must be in writing and must contain a statement of the hardship necessitating the change.**

2. Requests for Bus Stop Changes

A written request for a change in the bus stop assignment for a student will be honored if the change is being made permanently and if the request is submitted at least three days in advance. The request must be made for a five day a week pick-up/drop-off situation with the intent that the requested change would be for the rest of the school year.

The board will not honor requests for temporary changes in the child's bus stop assignment. Temporary changes in bus stop assignments jeopardize the safety of the student and may strain the driver's ability to deliver the child to the temporary address. Temporary changes in a bus stop assignment are very difficult to administer effectively. The chance that a student rides the wrong bus is greatly enhanced. The board feels that the safety of the child may be compromised if temporary stop changes are allowed.

3. Parents will be required to sign the Southampton Township Board of Education Transportation Agreement and Release found on the district Website.

School Administration Responsibility

The Southampton Township Administration is responsible for ensuring that bus safety regulations are taught in the classroom, that bus evacuation drills are conducted in accordance with the law, that a safe environment is established and maintained on all buses, and when necessary issue disciplinary consequences to students to address inappropriate behavior on the bus.

Safety is a responsibility each of us shares. You will be receiving a Bus Regulation Contract. We ask that you fully review this booklet with your child to help ensure the

safest transportation system possible. We know you share our concern over each child's safety and look forward to working together to this end.

School Bus Regulations

1. Students will treat the bus driver and other students with respect, and obey the bus driver every time a direction is given.
2. Students will wear seat belts during the ride to and from school. It is the law!
3. Students will keep their bodies and belongings inside the bus, to themselves, and feet out of the aisle.
4. Students will speak in a normal speaking voice and refrain from shouting.
5. Ipods, cell phones, and similar electronic devices are not permitted on the school bus. The school district will not be responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen items.
6. Food, drinks and gum are not permitted to be consumed on the bus.
7. Under no circumstances are students permitted to ride a bus other than his/her assigned bus.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS MAY RESULT IN A DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCE BEING IMPOSED.

Disciplinary Consequences

The bus driver will issue a bus conduct report when a student misbehaves on the bus and fails to comply with the directions from the driver or breaks the regulations cited above. The report will be forwarded to the appropriate school principal for disciplinary action.

The principal will interview the offender(s) and other witnesses, as necessary, to obtain a comprehensive picture of the events that have occurred.

The following disciplinary consequences may be imposed: The following list is meant to serve as an example and is not all inclusive.

- Warning to student and parent contacted
- Loss of recess
- Detention
- Demerits
- Saturday Detention
- Bus suspension
- Suspension from school
- Loss of Privileges (example: school dance)

This policy applies to all bus runs (regular transportation, special education transportation, and class trips).

During a bus suspension, the New Jersey Statute (listed below) for the transportation of regular education students clearly absolves the school from transporting the student. It requires the parent/guardian to provide for the student's prompt arrival to and departure from school for the duration of the suspension.

NEW JERSEY STATUTE, TITLE 18A:25-2:

“A pupil may be excluded from the bus for disciplinary reasons by the principal, and his/her parents shall provide for his/her transportation to and from school during the period of such exclusion.”
