

# SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION GUIDE

SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**THE SCHOOL BUS IS ONE OF THE SAFEST VEHICLES ON THE ROAD.**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration School Bus Safety Guide,  
U.S. Department of Transportation

## REFRIGERATOR NOTES

Child's Name				
School				
Route Number				
Estimated AM Pick-Up Time				
Estimated PM Drop-Off Time				
Bus timing is approximate. Variations may occur due to traffic, routing adjustments, weather, substitute drivers or other factors.				

### **SYOSSET SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

transportation@syossetschools.org

516-364-5840

7:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Calls during pick-ups and drop-offs should be for bus status or for emergencies only.

Please make non-emergency calls between 9:30-2:30.

### **HUNTINGTON COACH: LOST & FOUND**

Full Size Bus #'s      1-58      631-271-8995

Vans/Mini-Bus #'s      60-125      631-271-7225

Calls during pick-ups and drop-offs should be for emergencies only.

Call after buses return: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM or after 4:45 PM

### **MORNING TIPS**

- Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before estimated pick-up time to maximize student safety. The bus will not wait for students who are not at the stop.
- If the bus is more than 10 minutes late for pick-up, call Transportation.

### **AFTERNOON TIPS**

- Expect arrival within 30 minutes after the bus leaves your child's school.
- K-2 and students with special transportation accommodations require an adult.
- If the bus is more than 15 minutes late for its usual drop-off time, call Transportation.

## TRANSPORTATION FORMS

<b>TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM CHILDCARE SITE</b>	Apply for transportation to or from a childcare site. This form is due by April 1 of each year. <a href="#">Click here.</a>	
<b>STUDENT MEDICAL DISCLOSURE</b>	Notify Transportation if your child has a medical condition to be aware of. <a href="#">Click here.</a>	
<b>BUS STOP SAFETY REVIEW</b>	Request a review of your child's bus stop location, for safety reasons only. Changes will not be made by phone or email. <a href="#">Click here.</a>	
<b>BUS INCIDENT REPORT</b>	Notify the Transportation Department of an incident or concern. <a href="#">Click here.</a>	
<b>EARLY MORNING VAN REQUEST</b>	Apply for early morning transportation. Application only needed if your child rides a mini-bus. Public elementary school only. <a href="#">Click here.</a>	
<b>PRIVATE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION</b>	Apply for transportation to private or parochial schools. This form is due by April 1 of each year. <a href="#">Click here.</a>	

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## INTRODUCTION

Student safety is our top priority, guiding every decision we make. This handbook provides essential information about the policies and procedures that keep our school bus system safe and efficient. These practices help us ensure a secure, reliable transportation experience for all students.

## DRIVERS & DRIVER ASSISTANTS (D.A.'s)

School buses are among the safest vehicles on the road. Drivers and D.A.'s undergo rigorous background checks, comprehensive training in safe driving, student behavior management, and emergency procedures. Certifications are maintained through ongoing training and evaluations.

To ensure a safe and pleasant ride for everyone, bus drivers and D.A.'s set and reinforce clear behavior expectations. Parents play a vital role by discussing appropriate bus conduct with their children.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Safe and respectful behavior on school buses is essential to protect all passengers and avoid distracting the driver. Students are expected to follow the same standards of conduct as in the classroom. Excessive noise, pushing, bullying, or any behavior violating the District Code of Character, Conduct and Support are not allowed. By working together, we can create a safe and supportive environment for all students.

Repeated disciplinary issues may result in a suspension of bus privileges by the Principal or Superintendent. In such cases, parents are responsible for arranging their child's transportation to and from school.

## COMMUNICATION

We generally return calls and acknowledge emails within 1-2 school days. However, we kindly ask that **phone calls during the two weeks before and after the start of school are for emergencies only**. We transport nearly 8,000 students and this time is the busiest for the department. Non-emergency email response may take a bit longer during this time. Thank you for your patience.

## BUS DELAYS & OTHER NOTIFICATIONS

We keep families informed about bus delays and changes, whenever possible. Notifications are sent via text, email, or phone. Please ensure your contact information is current in your parent portal.

## ACCESSIBILITY

If your child requires special transportation accommodations outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP), please contact Pupil Personnel Services at 516-364-5616.

## BUS ASSIGNMENTS

Bus assignments for the upcoming school year will be available in your parent portal during the final week of summer. Once the bus assignments have been published, we will notify you by email. If you have not received an email and do not see a bus assignment for the new school year, it means they have not been released yet.

## BUS STOP LOCATIONS

Routes and stop locations may change year-to-year or even during the school year. Bus stop locations are determined by a mix of safety, efficiency, and convenience, ensuring students are assigned stops within a reasonable distance from home. New York State has determined that students in grades K-8 may travel up to two miles to a bus stop, while grades 9-12 may travel up to three miles.

## BUS STOPS: PARENT & GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Parents are responsible for ensuring their children reach the bus stop safely and on time, whether by walking or driving. State law recognizes that it is not possible for The District to provide a protected corridor between a student's home and the bus stop.

### **Walking to a Bus Stop**

If your child walks to the bus stop, be aware that some locations require walking several minutes and may entail crossing busy or unlit streets and navigating curves or hills, with or without sidewalks.

### **Driving to a Bus Stop**

If your child is driven to the bus stop, please have them out and ready to load before the bus arrives.

### **Additional parent responsibilities include:**

- Ensure your child arrives at the stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- Provide age-appropriate supervision to, from, and waiting at the bus stop.
- Transport large items that cannot fit on your child's lap (instruments, athletic gear, projects)
- Be ready to receive your child in the afternoon
- **Review safe bus behavior with your child:**
  - Always use a seatbelt.
  - Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
  - Keep the aisles clear - feet and other items are a tripping hazard.
  - Keep hands, feet, and head inside the bus.
  - Do not distract the driver - no fighting, yelling, or throwing objects.
  - Keep the bus clean - do not leave trash on seats or the floor.
  - No eating or drinking - it is a choking hazard and could affect students with allergies.

## BUS STOP SAFETY & EFFICIENCY ADJUSTMENTS

Bus stop locations are monitored throughout the year, and adjustments may be made to improve safety, route efficiency, or to accommodate additional students.

Requests based on individual family circumstances, such as visibility of the bus stop from home, neighborhood safety concerns, or other family schedules, cannot be accommodated. We must balance consistent, equitable, and safe practices for all students in the district.

## CORNER AND CENTRALIZED BUS STOPS

Corner and centralized stops play a critical role in enhancing student safety and improving efficiency. They serve multiple families and are strategically designed to maximize visibility, predictability, and overall safety. Students are more likely to wait in groups at centralized stops, adding an extra layer of security.

- **Improved Visibility**  
Corner stops typically offer clear sightlines in all directions, allowing motorists to see the bus from a distance and react safely.
- **Predictable Stops for Motorists**  
Motorists tend to approach intersections cautiously, expecting traffic controls, vehicles, and pedestrians, making it less likely they will attempt to pass during loading and unloading.
- **Reduced Driver Distraction**  
Corner stops eliminate the need for drivers to search for individual house numbers, keeping them focused on the road and scanning for students, and allowing time to activate warning lights before arriving, maintaining safety for all students.
- **Shorter Bus Rides**  
Fewer stops reduce travel time, helping students get to and from school promptly and safely.
- **Efficient Traffic Flow**  
Centralized bus stops decrease the frequency of stops, minimizing traffic disruptions and reducing the risk of impatient drivers dangerously passing a school bus while loading or unloading children.

## INDIVIDUAL HOUSE STOPS

House stops are not provided for convenience.

## MID-BLOCK STOPS

The distance from homes to a corner on some longer blocks may be inconsistent with others in the district. In our efforts to balance safety and convenience we might determine that a mid-block exception can be made safely. Mid-block locations are generally centralized stops shared between multiple families.

## PRIVATE ROADS

Bus stops will not be made on private roads or private property. The distance to a child's home via private lanes or walkways is not considered when determining bus stop locations.

## CUL DE SACS AND DEAD ENDS

Cul de sacs present unique challenges for school buses. While many have sufficient turnaround points, there is a risk of unpredictable obstruction, such as landscaping or construction vehicles. When these areas are blocked, the bus is forced to back up - a maneuver that is statistically the most dangerous for passengers and nearby pedestrians.

To prioritize safety and avoid unnecessary risks, we generally place stops at the entrance of cul de sacs, provided the walking distance to the stop is consistent with others in the district. For longer distances, exceptions might be made when it is deemed safe and operationally feasible.

Buses will not enter a dead end, regardless of distance to the nearest corner.

## BUS STOP TIMING

Pick-up and drop-off times are approximate. Variations may occur due to traffic, routing adjustments, weather, substitute drivers or other factors. Notifications regarding bus delays and changes are sent via text, email, or phone, when possible.

## BUS STOP TIMING: BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Timing may fluctuate more at the start of the school year as drivers become familiar with stops and changes are made. Buses may also be delayed getting out of schools due to increased traffic. Please allow a few weeks for routines to settle. We recognize the difficulty and frustration early or late arrivals cause and appreciate your understanding and patience.

## MORNING PICK-UP

- Be at the stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- We recommend being at the bus stop 10-15 minutes before the scheduled time for the first few weeks of school.
- If the bus is more than 10 minutes late, contact the Transportation Department.

## AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

GRADE LEVEL	DISMISSAL TIME	BUS DEPARTURE TIME	ESTIMATED ARRIVAL
High School	2:21 PM	2:27-2:35 PM	2:30-2:50 PM
Middle School	2:51 PM	2:55-3:00 PM	2:58-3:30 PM
Elementary	3:15 PM	3:20-3:40 PM	3:23-4:10 PM

## AFTERNOON DROPOFF

- **Departure time from your child's school may vary.** Some buses regularly arrive around 3:20 but a delay on a previous route may cause the bus to arrive at school later than usual. This does not mean the bus is late.
- Expect arrival within 30 minutes of when the bus leaves the school. Drop-off times may vary due to substitute drivers, traffic, and weather conditions.
- Kindergarten, First Grade, Second Grade, and students with special transportation accommodations must be received by an adult.
- Please be ready at the bus stop by 3:20 PM to welcome your child. If no adult is present, your child may be returned to school.

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Student safety is our top priority, starting before your child boards the bus. The loading and unloading process is the most critical part of the bus ride. When the bus's red lights flash and stop signs extend, all lanes of traffic in both directions must stop. Unfortunately, impatient motorists may attempt to pass the bus, creating a serious safety risk.

To reduce these risks, we carefully consider the number and placement of bus stops. We ask parents and students to follow these important safety and behavior guidelines:

### AT THE BUS STOP

- Arrive at least 5 minutes before your scheduled pick-up time.
- Respect surrounding property and leave the bus stop clean.
- Stand at least 10 feet from the curb or from the front of the stopped bus (three giant steps).
- Wait until the bus stops and opens its doors before approaching.
- If waiting in a vehicle, be out and ready to load before the bus arrives.
- Use handrails to prevent falls.

### ON THE BUS

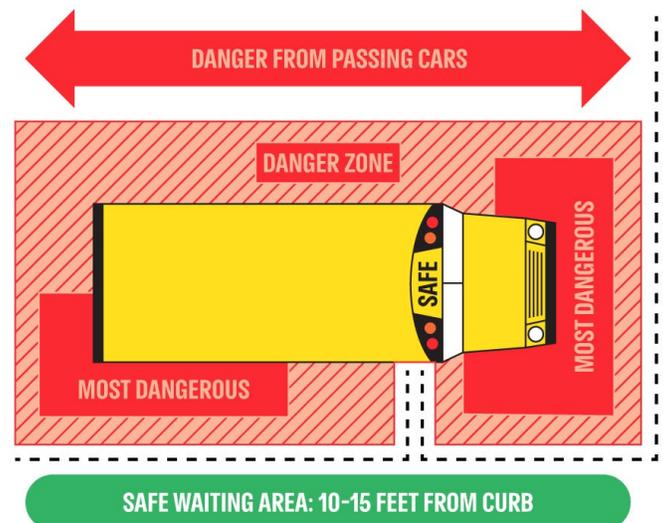
- Follow the District Code of Character, Conduct and Support.
- Sit properly, facing forward. Do not stand or block aisles.
- Keep aisles clear by holding belongings on your lap. Do not bring projects, instruments, or athletic equipment that cannot fit on your lap.
- Do not throw objects, stick anything out of windows, litter, or damage the bus.
- Talking is encouraged but avoid screaming. Distractions can cause accidents.

### LEAVING THE BUS

- Stay seated until the bus fully stops and the doors open.
- Use handrails to prevent falls.
- When crossing, take 5 giant steps in front of the bus, make eye contact with the driver, and wait for their signal to cross. Never cross directly in front of or behind the bus.
- Follow safety and behavior rules to avoid disciplinary action.

### THE DANGER ZONE

The area around the bus where children are most at risk of not being seen by the driver, known as The Danger Zone, is where most school bus-related accidents occur.



## EARLY & LATE BUSES

The District bus schedule enables students to participate in the broad range of athletic, club and academic programs offered before and after the school day.

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EARLY BUS SERVICE**

Early buses begin at 8:00 AM. Routes will be completed at a quicker pace than regular morning routes, so all students should be ready at their bus stop by 8:00 AM.

Due to the limited and unpredictable number of students using early services, buses will not stop if there are no students waiting.

Full-size bus riders do not need to schedule services - simply arrive early at the regular bus stop.

Van/Mini-bus riders must complete an [early bus registration form](#) to schedule pick-up. Please allow three school days for processing a change in schedule.

### **MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL LATE BUS SERVICE**

Late buses consolidate multiple routes onto fewer buses with limited stops. Generally, stops will be further from your home.

Middle and High School late buses run at 3:50 PM, 4:30 PM and 5:15 PM. An additional bus departs the high school at 6:00 PM.

School faculty is available during the day to assist students with late buses, but may not be available after 4:00 PM.

Students must communicate their stop to the driver when they board the bus, or the bus may not stop at their location. Students are expected to be familiar with cross streets and the surrounding area.

## ROAD CLOSURES

You'll likely become aware of road closures in your area before we do. Even if it won't affect your child's route, please consider giving us a call so that we can reroute buses and communicate with parents.

Please call the Transportation Department at 516-364-5840 to report road closures. Thank you for your help!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ):

### Bus Stop Locations

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#### **HOW ARE BUS STOP LOCATIONS CHOSEN?**

We consider factors such as bus driver and motorist visibility, stopping distance, road conditions, traffic patterns and controls, speed limits, bus maneuverability, distance between stops, and road inclines. As a guideline, we do not provide house stops and buses will not enter private roads or private property.

#### **WHY DID MY CHILD'S BUS STOP LOCATION CHANGE?**

We make change to optimize safety and efficiency, or to accommodate new students.

#### **ARE SIDEWALKS REQUIRED FOR MY CHILD TO GET TO THE BUS STOP?**

State law allows bus stops on various roadways, with or without sidewalks. The lack of a sidewalk is common within the District. We conduct visual inspections to ensure there is sufficient space for children to walk to their stops.

#### **WHAT IF THE BUS'S DOOR IS NOT ON MY SIDE OF THE STREET?**

If you'd prefer that your child does not cross alone, they can wait directly opposite the bus stop. When the safety lights flash and the stop signs extend, your child should make eye contact with the driver and wait for the signal to cross safely. This process should also be used during drop-off.

#### **THE BUS PASSES MY HOUSE ON ITS ROUTE – CAN IT STOP THERE?**

For safety reasons, buses only stop at designated bus stops, even if they pass by individual houses on the way to or from the bus stop. This helps ensure a consistent and safe boarding process.

#### **THERE'S A BLIND CURVE NEAR MY HOUSE. CAN AN EXCEPTION BE MADE SO MY CHILD DOESN'T HAVE TO WALK?**

Bus stops are in located areas with sufficient visibility in all directions for motorists to stop safely when approaching a school bus. Stops near blind curves may have limited sightlines and are avoided for safety reasons.

#### **WHAT IF I CANNOT SEE MY CHILD'S BUS STOP FROM THE HOUSE?**

If you have safety concerns and cannot view the bus stop from your home, we encourage age-appropriate supervision for your child at the bus stop. We cannot guarantee stops within sight of every home. Parents are responsible for ensuring their child's safety to and from the bus stop. Please make suitable arrangements.

#### **WHAT IF I CANNOT LEAVE ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER HOME ALONE TO GO TO THE BUS STOP?**

We recognize that many families have other children or dependents at home but cannot accommodate every request. If you're unable to supervise the bus stop directly, consider asking trusted neighbors or family to help ensure your child's safety at the stop.

## FAQ: Bus Stop Timing and Delays

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### **WHY SHOULD MY CHILD BE AT THE BUS STOP 5 MINUTES EARLY?**

This is primarily a matter of safety. It is vital for the driver to visually confirm the presence of all students and having students ready before the bus arrives ensures a safe and smooth boarding process. It also prevents students from missing the bus if it arrives a few minutes early.

### **WHAT IF THE BUS LEAVES THE STOP TOO EARLY?**

Stop times are estimates. Drivers are trained to arrive on schedule, though times may fluctuate depending on several conditions. If GPS data shows an early departure, and the busing schedule allows, we will do our best to reroute the bus for your child. If early departure becomes a pattern, please notify the Transportation Department.

### **HOW LONG SHOULD WE WAIT TO CALL IF THE BUS IS LATE?**

We suggest waiting at least 10 minutes past the scheduled pick-up time before contacting the Transportation Department. Delays may occur due to traffic, weather, or unforeseen events. Usually, the bus will arrive within this timeframe.

### **WHAT IF THE BUS DOES NOT COME?**

Occasionally, a substitute driver may miss a stop, or a driver may continue the route if no students are visible at the stop. If GPS data indicates that your stop was missed, and the busing schedule allows, we will do our best to reroute the bus for your child.

### **CAN MY CHILD WAIT INSIDE UNTIL THE BUS APPROACHES?**

For safety and timing reasons, students should be outside at their bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled stop time. If your child is not there when the bus arrives, the driver will proceed.

### **WHY IS MY CHILD FIRST TO BE PICKED UP AND LAST TO BE DROPPED OFF?**

Our bus routes are designed for the safety and efficiency of all students. Those living furthest from the school typically follow a ‘first on, last off’ system. This approach ensures that the bus route follows a logical loop, minimizing travel time and avoiding backtracking.

### **WHY IS MY CHILD’S BUS RIDE SO LONG?**

Our in-district routes usually take about 30-40 minutes but may vary due to factors such as distance to the school, number of stops, traffic, and weather.

### **WHAT IF THE AFTERNOON ARRIVAL TIME IS AFFECTING AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES?**

Drop-off times are not guaranteed. If rescheduling activities for a later time isn’t possible, we encourage parents to consider alternative transportation on these days.

## FAQ: Inclement Weather

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### **IS MY CHILD EXPECTED TO WAIT OUTSIDE IN BAD WEATHER?**

We understand that waiting in the rain or snow can be unpleasant. If your child doesn't have suitable gear or is uncomfortable, we suggest making alternate arrangements to get them to the bus stop or school. Buses are restricted to designated stops and will depart if students are not present.

### **WHAT HAPPENS DURING SNOWFALL OR A SNOW FORECAST?**

Buses operate normally when our schools are open. If there is a closure or delayed opening, buses will adjust accordingly. For example, if there is a 2-hour delay, buses will start 2 hours later than usual. Notifications will be shared through the district's official channels, including text alerts and local news.

### **WHAT IF THE BUS STOP AREA HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED AFTER SNOWFALL?**

In snowy conditions, drivers will look for a cleared area near the bus stop. We kindly request your help by gathering at a clear location nearby. Your cooperation helps ensure safe pick-ups and drop-offs.

## Schedule Changes

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### **HOW DO I ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION FOR MY CHILD?**

All students within the District are eligible for transportation, so no action is required. However, you may receive communications from us seeking additional information.

### **WE'VE MOVED. HOW DO I UPDATE MY BUSING INFORMATION?**

Please contact the Registrar. Once they have updated the system, the Transportation Department will begin its process, and bus assignments will be emailed. The process will take about one week but could take longer during recess periods.

### **HOW CAN I REQUEST A TEMPORARY MEDICAL EXCEPTION FOR MODIFIED BUS SERVICE?**

Please submit medical documentation to the Transportation Department. Upon review and approval by medical personnel, special services may be arranged using our smaller vans. Full-size buses will not be used to accommodate house stops for medical reasons.

### **HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR A NEW REQUEST TO TAKE EFFECT?**

Once approved, please allow 3 school days for any new service to begin.

### **HOW WILL PARENTS BE NOTIFIED OF CHANGES TO BUS ROUTES OR SCHEDULES?**

Parents will be informed of any changes to bus routes or schedules via email.

### **WHAT IF MY CHILD DOESN'T NEED THE BUS DUE TO ABSENCE OR OTHER REASON?**

If your child is on a van route, please contact the Transportation office at 516-364-5840 to cancel transportation. If your child rides a full-size bus, there is no need to call.

## FAQ: Student Safety

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### **WHAT ARE THE AFTERNOON DROP-OFF REQUIREMENTS?**

An adult must be at the bus stop to receive kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and students with special transportation accommodations, unless otherwise designated. Other students may disembark on their own. To add additional authorized persons to receive your child at the bus stop, please contact your school's main office.

### **WHAT HAPPENS TO MY K-2 CHILD IF THERE IS NO ADULT AT THE BUS STOP?**

We understand that an occasional delay may be unavoidable. However, if no adult is available, the child may be taken back to school for parent pick-up. While this can be inconvenient, our top priority is your child's safety. If this reoccurs, the matter will be referred to the building principal.

### **MY CHILD CAN EXIT THE BUS ON THEIR OWN. WHY DIDN'T THE DRIVER LET THEM OFF?**

Occasionally, a driver may feel it's not in the child's best interest to be let off, especially if a parent or guardian who routinely meets the bus isn't present at the stop. Depending on the circumstances, the child may be taken back to school for parent pick-up. While this can be inconvenient, our top priority is your child's safety.

### **HOW CAN ENSURE MY CHILD IS BUCKLED IN?**

New York State law doesn't mandate seat belt use on school buses because they utilize a safety system called "compartmentalization," which offers protection even without seatbelts. However, all buses and vans are equipped with seatbelts. We encourage parents to teach their children about the significance of seatbelt use.

Please understand that drivers and D.A.'s cannot monitor each child, nor may they physically intervene to buckle a child's seatbelt.

### **WHY WON'T THE DRIVER OR D.A. STOP MY CHILD FROM REMOVING THEIR SEATBELT, CLOTHING, ETC.?**

D.A.'s can verbally encourage students to keep seatbelts and clothing on but are not authorized to physically intervene. If your child struggles with this behavior, we recommend discussing effective strategies with your child's teacher, school social worker/psychologist, or special education coordinator.

### **WHAT MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO PROTECT STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES?**

Eating and drinking are not permitted on the bus. We encourage parents to discuss this rule with their children, emphasizing the potential risks to themselves, their friends, and classmates. Please understand that drivers and D.A.'s cannot monitor each child.

## FAQ: Student Behavior

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### **WHAT RULES MUST BE FOLLOWED ON THE BUS OR AT THE STOP?**

The District Code of Conduct applies both on the bus and at the bus stop. Your child is expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, be courteous to staff and fellow students, and respect your neighbor's property at the bus stop location.

### **WHY HAS MY CHILD BEEN ASSIGNED A SEAT?**

Seats may be assigned by drivers or building staff throughout the school year as a general practice. Other times, seats may be assigned to address behavior that causes safety concerns. This measure is taken to prevent ongoing behavior which could potentially jeopardize a student's bus privileges.

### **HOW ARE DISCIPLINARY ISSUES OR BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS HANDLED?**

Disciplinary issues or behavior problems on the bus are addressed in accordance with the District Code of Conduct. The bus driver will typically address the issue directly with the student and may assign a seat. If there's an ongoing behavioral problem or immediate safety concern, the matter will be referred to the school principal for further action and resolution. The goal is to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all students.

### **IF THERE IS AN ISSUE, HOW CAN I ADVOCATE FOR MY CHILD?**

Please work with the Transportation Department to address any concerns or issues. Do not confront the driver to discuss the concern or issue. This may make other students on the bus feel unsafe and may distract the driver from safely transporting our children. Drivers have been directed not to discuss concerns or issues with parents. Under no circumstances should a parent board the bus.

The best way to advocate for your child is to complete a [Bus Incident Report](#). The Transportation Department will conduct a thorough investigation, which may include interviews and a review of video footage.

### **IS IT POSSIBLE FOR MY CHILD TO LOSE BUS PRIVILEGES?**

In cases where there are persistent behavioral issues on the bus or at the bus stop involving a student or parent, it may be necessary for the building Principal or District Administration to take additional action, which may include suspending or revoking a student's bus privileges. In such cases, the parent or guardian will be responsible for their child's transportation to and from school.

Additional information may be found in our District Code of Character, Conduct and Support, available at [syossetschools.org](http://syossetschools.org).

## FAQ: Miscellaneous

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### **MY CHILD CANNOT FIND AN OPEN SEAT. CAN SOME CHILDREN BE PLACED ON ANOTHER BUS?**

While some buses may appear crowded, they will not exceed capacity. Bus routes are designed to utilize all available space on the buses in our fleet. School bus capacity assumes that elementary school-aged children will ride up to three (3) per seat, while efforts are made to limit middle and high school students to two (2) per seat.

If your child is unable to locate a seat, or other students will not share a seat, your child should notify the bus driver or D.A. Alternatively, in case they are not comfortable doing so, you may complete a [Bus Incident Report](#).

### **ARE INSTRUMENTS OR ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT ALLOWED ON THE SCHOOL BUS?**

Students are allowed to bring instruments, athletic equipment, and class projects on the school bus if they can be held on the student's lap without blocking the aisle or causing a distraction.

### **HOW DO I RECOVER AN ITEM MY CHILD LEFT ON THE BUS?**

Drivers conduct routine checks of the bus after their routes are complete. Many items left on the bus will be kept for students to claim the following day. However, valuable items, such as wallets, keys, instruments, earbuds, and phones may be brought into the Huntington Coach dispatch office for security reasons. Please contact Huntington Coach between 10am-1pm or after 5pm to arrange for pickup or return of the item.

Full Size Buses: 631-271-8995   Vans/Mini-Buses: 631-271-7225

Please have your child's bus/route number ready.

## FAQ: Bus Drivers and Driver Assistants (D.A.'s)

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### **WHY HAS OUR DRIVER AND/OR D.A. CHANGED?**

We understand the importance of consistency for our students. However, due to various factors, bus personnel may change unexpectedly, which may cause a short-term disruption in your child's bus schedule. All staff members are trained to ensure a safe ride. We recognize that changes may also cause hardships for parents and appreciate your understanding.

### **WHAT TYPE OF EMERGENCY TRAINING DO DRIVERS AND D.A.'S RECEIVE?**

Drivers and D.A.'S undergo specific training programs that cover emergency procedures and protocols to ensure the safety of students in various situations. They are prepared to handle emergencies and prioritize the well-being of our students.

### **HOW CAN I REPORT A SAFETY CONCERN OR INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON THE BUS?**

Please complete a [Bus Incident Report](#) to report your concerns to the Transportation Department. We treat all reports seriously and will promptly conduct a thorough investigation to address and resolve any concerns raised.

### **WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR RESOLVING ISSUES WITH A DRIVER, D.A., OR STUDENT ON THE BUS?**

To address issues involving a driver, D.A., or another student on the bus, please complete a [Bus Incident Report](#). The Transportation Department will promptly investigate the matter and take appropriate actions to resolve the concern.

### **CAN I APPROACH THE DRIVER OR D.A. TO PERSONALLY ADDRESS CONCERNS ON THE BUS?**

No. We understand that you want to resolve your concerns, but please do not confront the driver, D.A., or students directly or attempt to board the bus. Confrontations create an unsafe environment for other students on board, and it is essential that the driver and D.A. remain focused on transporting students safely.

Please remember that parents, guardians, or other adults are not permitted on the school bus, and the use of aggressive or threatening language is a violation of the District Code of Conduct.

Please complete a [Bus Incident Report](#) to communicate your concerns to the Transportation Department, who will address the situation promptly. Your cooperation in maintaining a safe and respectful environment for everyone involved is greatly appreciated.

## REQUESTING A BUS STOP SAFETY REVIEW

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Bus stop changes will be considered starting from October 1 of each school year. After reviewing this guide, if you believe a bus stop change is necessary for safety reasons, please follow this process:

1. Complete a [Bus Stop Safety Review Form](#). Phone calls or emails will not result in a bus stop location change.
2. The Transportation Department will conduct a comprehensive assessment, considering factors such as, but not limited to:
  - Bus driver and motorist visibility
  - Stopping distance
  - Road conditions
  - Traffic patterns and controls
  - Speed limits
  - Bus maneuverability
  - Distance between stops
3. Please allow up to four (4) weeks to complete the review process. You will be notified via email of the Transportation Department's decision.

All requests for a Bus Stop Safety Review must be completed using this form. Bus drivers are not permitted to change stop locations without authorization from the Transportation Department.

Please be reminded that bus stop changes cannot be approved for reasons such as:

- Inability to see bus stop from home
- Other family obligation
- Work or personal commitments
- Neighborhood safety concerns
- Lack of sidewalks, unlit streets, hills, or curves
- Bus passes your house on the way to or from the bus stop
- Walking distance

[Click here for the Bus Stop Safety Review Form](#) (or Scan QR Code):

