

# Rules and Safety Procedures for Riding the School Bus

<http://www.bham.wednet.edu/departments/transportation/transportation.htm>; 676-6546.

## Riding the Bus

We need your assistance in helping your children have a safe bus ride to and from school. Over the years, our buses have maintained an outstanding safety record. Please review these bus safety rules with your child and have him/her return the Bus Ridership Form to the bus driver during the first week of school.

## Bus Safety

The safety of all bus riders is the school bus driver's primary job. Misbehavior on a school bus distracts the driver and could endanger others. Schools and families will be notified when students do not follow bus safety rules while being transported to and from school and during school-sponsored activities. Violations of the rules discontinue bus transportation privileges for any student involved. Video/audio monitoring systems are sometimes used to assist drivers with behavior management, allowing them to focus on the primary task of safe driving. Conduct reports will be issued to students who misbehave on the bus. A copy of this report is provided to the student, school principal and transportation manager. Action taken for improper behavior ranges from a written warning for a first offense to removal from the bus for a period of time, which can extend through the school year for more serious offenses. Students are responsible for the cost of repairs due to vandalism, abuse or misuse.

## Bus Rules

1. Drivers are in charge of the bus and students.
2. Students crossing roads must do so under the direction of the bus driver

and cross only in front of the bus. (City bus rules are different. Children should not cross in front of a city bus.)

3. Observe classroom conduct on the bus. Be courteous. Do not use profane language, teasing or name-calling.
4. Keep the bus clean. Eating, drinking and chewing gum are not allowed.
5. Remain seated at all times. Keep head and hands inside the bus.
6. No plants, animals or hazardous objects are allowed on the bus.
7. All items brought on the bus should be held on the student's lap except for approved musical instruments (see note below).

**NOTE:** Washington State Administrative Code 392-145 prohibits the transport of heavy, sharp, bulky or other items in the passenger area of any school bus that may be hazardous in the event of an accident or emergency stop. For transportation to and from school, this includes curriculum-related items such as larger musical instruments (maximum available dimensions: 36x10x8 inches). Items that pose a safety threat are also prohibited.

## Waiting at the Stop

1. Arrive three to five minutes early.
2. Wait in line and stay away from the road and off private property.
3. Do not litter. Use the garbage cans on the bus.
4. Do not chase a school bus.

## Getting on the Bus

1. Stay a safe distance from the road.
2. Wait to move toward the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the bus' stop sign and lights are activated.
3. When crossing the road, always cross in front of the bus.
4. Look for a nod from the driver before crossing.

5. Check for traffic one more time after the driver signals.

## Getting off the Bus

1. Always wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before starting to unload.
2. Move away from the bus after exiting.
3. Do not attempt to retrieve dropped items anywhere close to the bus. Instead, notify the driver.
4. When crossing the road, always cross in front of the bus.
5. Look for a signal from the driver before crossing.
6. Check for traffic one more time after the driver signals.

## Safety Tips

- Remind your child not to run after the bus. If your child misses the bus, have an alternate transportation plan.
- Remind your child to leave possessions at home that might endanger bus safety. These include pets, large packages, instrument cases, sharp objects, sticks, breakable containers, skateboards and any form of weapons.
- Arrange to have your child load and unload at his/her designated bus stops. To assist in a family emergency, students may obtain a variance pass. The pass allows him/her to load or unload at a bus stop other than the regular one. Passes are issued at school with a written request from a parent/guardian.
- Encourage your child to tell the bus driver if he or she has a problem at the stop or during the bus ride.
- Know your child's school number and driver's name.
- Remind your child about safe walking procedures and respect for private property.



## Bus Ridership Form

To keep an accurate roster of who rides this bus, please complete and sign this form. Return it to the school bus driver.

*Thank you for helping make your child's ride safe.* PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the rules and safety notes with my child.

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_