

Dear Parents and Students:

Safety in our community and in our schools is a major concern of parents, students, and school officials. School bus safety is a significant part of that concern. Therefore, the Transportation Services Department has developed a series of safety tips and school bus rules to insure the effective operation of the Columbus City School buses and the maximum safety for our children.

We suggest that parents and pupils read this publication together, keep it for future reference, or even post the rules section on a bulletin board or in an appropriate location as a reminder.

These safety tips and regulations may provide good discussion topics also – with the hope that knowing and understanding them will result in safety for all.

**The Transportation Services Department
Columbus City Schools**

ZERO TOLERANCE

The Columbus City Schools uses a zero tolerance approach in regard to gang activity, possession of a weapon, and any violent and/or disruptive behavior in school, on school grounds and/or buses that threaten safety and order. Any infractions related to the above mentioned areas will be subject to a strong and uniform response. This includes a firm application of the district's "The Guide to Student Conduct" with appropriate penalties and criminal charges filed as necessary.

School Bus Safety Rules

1. Pupil must ride assigned bus. No unauthorized passengers are allowed.
2. Pupils must obey bus driver's instructions at all times.
3. School buses are not permitted to stop longer than necessary to pick up pupils. Therefore, school buses cannot wait for tardy pupils.
4. Get on and off at assigned stop only.
5. Transporting of animals, pets or glass containers on bus is not allowed.
6. Changing from seat to seat while the bus is in motion is not permitted.
7. Excessive noise, loud talking or extreme laughter is not allowed.
8. No noise or talking at railroad crossings and other danger points.
9. Pupils may not extend any part of their bodies through bus windows.
10. Spitting or throwing any object from windows is not allowed.
11. Smoking, eating, drinking and littering are not allowed.
12. Pupils may not use profane language.
13. Pupils must observe rules for crossing street when entering or exiting bus.
14. Parents are responsible for any damage to the bus caused by their children
15. Any conduct which would endanger any passenger or driver or which could result in damage to the vehicle is not allowed.
16. The carrying of weapons by bus passengers is not permitted.
17. No radios, tape players, CD players or cell phones are allowed on the bus.

**If you have questions, please call
Transportation Services at 365-5074.**



Columbus City Schools
Transportation Services
270 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.columbus.k12.oh.us



Riding The School Bus Safely

Safety Tips and Regulations for School Bus Trips



On The Way to The Bus

Safety Starts Before You Reach The School Bus:

- On the way to the bus stop, observe safety by crossing streets at the crosswalks.
- If there is a traffic signal, be sure to wait for the proper signal. Don't cross against traffic signals.
- If there is a traffic patrol person present, obey his or her instructions.
- Students must be at the stop 5 minutes ahead of the scheduled pick up time.
- **Students must be standing at the stop when the bus arrives; not sitting in a car or waiting inside the house.**
- Avoid rushing and running across streets or through lawns.

At The Bus Stop

Observe Safety Rules At The Bus Stop:

- You and your friends should stand and wait for your bus in a place of safety as designated by the bus driver.
- Do not run around or play on private property or in the street.
- Avoid crowding, pushing, or shoving toward the curb or street while the bus approaches.
- As the bus approaches, line up in single file to board the bus.
- Don't race to be the first on the bus. Stand back from the door until it is opened.
- Wait for the bus to pull up to your stop and park before getting on the bus.

- Parents can not hold conferences at the bus stop. Call the School principal to schedule a conference.

Seating On The Bus

Once On Board, Be Seated Safely:

- **Follow the instructions of your bus driver.**
- Move immediately to your assigned seat. If there is a change in seating, sit in your new seat,
- Do not stop in the aisle to talk to friends while the bus is loading passengers.
- Allow space for others to be seated because, usually, every seat will be filled.
- Do not save seats.
- Face the front of the bus, with feet on the floor in front of you.

Conduct On The Bus

Good Conduct Is Safe Conduct:

- You must **sit in your assigned seat** until you get off at your stop
- You may quietly talk to others in the same seat
- You must be quiet at railroad crossings, when the driver is using a two-way radio or when the bus is stopped for emergency vehicles.
- **You may not yell or use profanity.**
- You may not smoke or fight.
- You may carry books, lunches or school instruments in your lap.

- You may not eat on the bus.
- You may not bring glass, animals, skateboards, scooters or sharp objects on the bus.
- Keep your seat clean and undamaged – you are responsible for damage. Damages caused by the student will be charged to the parent.

Getting Off The Bus

Leave The Bus In A Safe Manner:

- Avoid crowding and pushing. Exit the bus one-at-a-time, row-by-row.
- Remember to check your seat before leaving the bus. Don't leave your lunch, books, or personal items behind. Don't take someone else's lunch or personal items
- Bus riders exiting the bus should be allowed to leave before other students get on.
- Reserve the rushing and running for the playground – not the bus.

On The Way Home

Be Sure To Follow Safety Rules:

- Once off the bus, stand in the designated place of safety until the bus has left the stop – then go directly home or to your destination.
- Remember, if you must cross the street, cross 10 feet in front of the stopped bus.
- Never cross the street behind the bus.
- Never retrieve papers or items under or around the bus.