

***Parents, You Can Help Too!***

## **Flashing Red Lights on a School Bus**

The safety of our students is the most important consideration for all of us. Currently, the number one reason contributing to the most injuries and deaths of students in the United States is the passing of School Buses while students are loading or unloading.

***Please Help Us Combat This!***

1. If a School Bus is stopped on a street *without* a physical barrier dividing directional traffic, you must stop in either direction if the *School Bus' Red Lights are flashing*. This includes School Zones.
2. If a School Bus is stopped on a street with a physical barrier dividing directional traffic, you must stop if you are traveling in the *same direction* as the School Bus.
3. You can not proceed or pass a School Bus until the Red Lights are turned off and the School Bus resumes motion.

## **Speeding in a School Zone**

1. Please remember that while traveling in a School Zone the speed limit is 15 miles per hour.
2. While penalties for speeding in a School Zone vary and are on a sliding scale, going 35 MPH, for example, in a 15 MPH School Zone will carry a minimum \$187 fine and 6 demerit points on your license!

## **Walk Zones**

If you live within one mile of the elementary schools or two miles within the middle schools or high school you are considered to be in the walk zone and no busing is provided.

***Thank You For Your Help!***



## **Transportation Department School Bus Rules & Disciplinary Action Guidelines**

***Parent/Guardian: Please take a few minutes and review this booklet with your student. These rules apply to all Regular Bus Routes, Field Trips and all Sporting Events. The School Bus Driver's responsibility is the safe and efficient transportation of all students in their care. Students can help in ensuring safe transportation by following these simple guidelines:***

1. Students must arrive at their assigned stop five (5) minutes before their scheduled Bus Stop time. Please note that pick up times may be dictated by weather, road conditions and other obstacles. Because of this, all scheduled times must have twenty (20) minutes leeway.
2. Students will board and exit the Bus in a safe and orderly fashion. NO shoving or pushing. When at your Bus Stop, respect homeowners' property—no running on lawns, throwing objects, teasing animals—and no running or standing in the streets.
3. Students transported in a District Vehicle shall be under the authority of and responsible to the vehicle's Driver. All vehicles will be considered an extension of the classroom, and the same conduct is expected.
4. At no time is it allowed for objects to be thrown at other students, or inside or at other vehicles. While in a District vehicle, students are to remain seated, facing forward. No loud, defamatory or profane language will be tolerated. The Bus Driver has the authority to assign seats.
5. Emergency exits, hatches and windows are not to be used as regular exits or entrances. Any passenger found using these

as such will have their riding privileges automatically suspended.

6. No boisterous conduct. Fighting will result in an automatic, minimum 10-day suspension of bus riding privileges.
7. The following items are not allowed on any School Bus: any type of skates, skate boards or scooters, live animals, any tobacco product, lighters, matches, wearing of athletic footwear with spikes or cleats, eating or drinking, any item large enough to deprive seating of a passenger or that will block an isle (book bags, musical instruments, school projects), drugs or alcohol.
8. All Students using laser pointers or personal alarms on a School Bus will have these items confiscated and be subject to disciplinary action.

## Disciplinary Guidelines

The Transportation Department realizes that the majority of our students adhere to and practice self-discipline. However, on occasion, some students' behavior must be modified to ensure the safety and comfort of themselves as well as their fellow passengers. In these instances, the following procedures will be used:

1. If a passenger's action and conduct warrants a written notice, an attempt will be made to notify the parent/guardian before the written notice is given to the student. This is to ensure that the parent/guardian is aware of the student's actions.
2. The first written notice is a warning. The second will suspend riding privileges for five (5) days. The third notice results in the suspension of ALL riding privileges for the remainder of the current School Year. Please note that depending on the severity of the infraction, disciplinary steps can be skipped at the discretion of the Supervisory Staff of the Transportation Department.
3. Questions regarding discipline or rules can be directed to the Transportation Department by calling 283-1950 between the hours of 6:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding School Holidays.
4. Disciplinary measures also apply to unauthorized riders.

## Student Safety: Entering and Exiting the Bus Safely

1. Avoid the Danger Zones! Take ten (10) steps away from the School Bus before crossing. NEVER cross in the back of the School Bus.
2. STOP! before crossing the street and wait for the Driver's signal.
3. Check for traffic both ways.
4. LISTEN! If your Driver blows the horn, GO BACK!
5. Cross while continuing to check for traffic in both directions.
6. Always walk straight across the street, never at an angle.
7. If you drop something under or near the vehicle, tell the Driver. NEVER stop and try to pick it up yourself!

