

## SCHOOL BUS STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Students will always follow the school bus operator or bus assistant's instructions and comply with the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. The bus operator and assistant's primary concern is for student safety.
2. Students will exercise good manners, caution, and consideration for other people. They will show respect for the bus operator and assistant, the bus, other students, and other adults.
3. Students will not annoy or bother others or engage in horseplay or rough play.
4. Students will not use profanity or make offensive gestures.
5. Students will respect private property and observe good behavior while at the bus stop. They will be at their assigned bus stop ready to board the bus 5 minutes prior to the scheduled bus arrival time. They will not run after the bus once it has begun to drive away.
6. Students will sit in their assigned seat and remain properly seated with their seat belt securely fastened while the bus is in motion.
7. Students will wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before boarding or leaving the bus. They will enter and leave the bus in an orderly single file. If it is necessary to cross the road before boarding or after exiting the bus, students will cross in FRONT of the bus after the bus operator gives a signal indicating that crossing is safe.
8. Students will leave the bus only with the consent of the bus operator at their assigned bus stop.
9. Students will talk in a normal conversational voice, but remain silent as the bus approaches and crosses railroad tracks. They will not distract the school bus operator.
10. Students will keep their head, hands, and other objects inside the bus at all times.
11. Students will keep the aisle and step well clear at all times. They will hold musical instruments and other objects in their lap. (Instruments may be transported only when space is available.)
12. Students will not eat, drink, spit, or chew gum on transported on board a school bus.
13. Students may use wireless and/or cellular communication devices while on the bus, but the devices must be placed on silent or vibrate for the duration of any bus transportation. (Student use of a cell phone may be restricted by the bus operator to ensure the safe operation of the bus.)

*Misconduct on the bus could result in suspension or expulsion from school.*

## KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure their children are safe when en route to and from the bus stop and while at the bus stop. If necessary, accompany your child to the bus stop and meet the bus at the end of the day.

Parents of students in grades kindergarten and above should expect that their children will be dropped at the bus stop with or without the parent at the bus stop. Parents who want their children to be supervised at the bus stop, need to ensure they provide that supervision.



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## ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION TIPS



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Is my child eligible for school bus transportation?**

All students who live outside of the walk zone of the school for which their residence is zoned are eligible for school bus transportation. The walk zone for elementary school students is 1 mile, it's 1.5 miles for middle school students, and it's 2 miles for high school students. Whether you want your child to actually walk those distances, is your decision, but those are the distances at which transportation services begin. Students participating in certain School Choice schools and programs that include transportation services are eligible for transportation within the specific parameters established within the School Choice Plan.

## **Whom should I call if the bus does not arrive on time?**

After 30 minutes, you should call the Transportation Department at (850) 469-5490 or (850) 469-5678.

## **I notice my child's bus drives past my home. Can the driver stop at my house to pick up and drop off my child?**

Only certain students whose needs are addressed through ESE are eligible for curbside bus stop service. For other students, service is provided in accordance with distance guidelines that assures a maximum travel to the stop of 1/2 mile for elementary students and 1 mile for secondary students. Every effort is made to improve route efficiency by clustering students to stops and, where possible, providing service on major streets. within these guidelines.

## **Can I require that my child be released only to me at the bus stop?**

Only certain designated students, whose needs are addressed through an IEP or 504 plan and pre-K students, are eligible for "must be met" service. These parents have an obligation to meet the bus every day or risk forfeiture of transportation service. For all other students the parent/guardian is responsible for meeting the bus if they deem it appropriate.

## **To whom should I report my address or telephone number change?**

The school should be contacted as soon as possible with address or telephone number change information. Once changes are recorded into the District's database, the data will appear in school bus routing software within 24 hours. Remember, this information is used to verify your child's eligibility for transportation services and to contact you in the event of an emergency. It is very important that it remain current and valid.

## **I arrived home late from work and I cannot find my child. The school is closed. What do I do?**

Call the Transportation Department. "Must be met" students are usually returned to school if they are not met. If the student is not a "must be met" student, our Transportation staff can assist in locating your child.

## **I have a question regarding a bus stop location or pick-up/drop-off time. Who should I call?**

You can use our bus stop locator tool linked on our website or you can call our office. Your child's school can also assist you.

## **My child uses a wheelchair. What do I need to know?**

Wheelchairs are transported on our school buses in a forward-facing position. If it is possible for your child to transfer to a bus seat, we will assist with that at your request. If your child is to be transported in the wheelchair, the chair must have working brakes and functioning footrests, the seat and back of the chair must be properly attached to the chair, the harness and/or trunk support system must be attached, the chair must have secure attachment points so it can be secured to the bus, and the lap-belt must be "automobile" quality and type. In addition, lap trays, if used by the student, must be removed and stored during transportation. Finally, we remind our drivers that even if the child is independent, the driver or attendant should still be the one wheeling the chair onto the lift. We ask that power chairs be put in the manual position when possible.

## **I would like to arrange for my child to be transported to an after-school child care facility. What do I need to do?**

Please submit a Request for Transportation Accommodation to the Transportation Department. You can fill the form out electronically and e-mail it to us or you can fill it out by hand and bring it to us or fax it to us. Accommodations are provided on a space available basis each year. We will need to ensure the bus roster for the bus operating near the facility is stable and that the facility is located along the existing route for that bus.

## **Can my child ride the bus home with a friend after school?**

No. Students are not permitted to ride to or from an alternate location with a friend. In the event of a serious family emergency, contact the principal's office as early as possible so alternate arrangements can be explored.

## **My wife and I are divorced and we share custody of our child. I have the children from Monday to Wednesday morning, and my wife has them from Wednesday afternoon until the following Sunday evening. Can we alternate buses and bus stops for my children?**

For the sake of the accountability of the 24,000 students we transport on more than 300 buses, transportation accommodations must be for a minimum of five consecutive days. We would not want your child to come up missing for any reason or under any circumstance, but we would not want to aggravate the situation by losing track of which bus she was supposed to ride on what morning and afternoon or day. We recommend you work out an arrangement with their mother so you can share the responsibility for week-on/week-off transportation to and from one location, then the other. We would be happy to work with you in that case on a space available basis.