

## RULES FOR BUS RIDERS

**Riding a school bus is a privilege, which may be denied to students who disregard rules of good conduct and safety regulations.**

1. **Be at the bus stop** 5-10 minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the bus; it will not wait for latecomers.
2. While waiting at the bus stop, there should be no horseplay, punching, shoving, throwing of any kind of object or running on neighboring lawns. Stand 10 feet back from the curb when the bus is approaching. Form a single line to board the bus.
3. Take a seat and remain seated at all times until you reach your destination. Please talk quietly to students near you.
4. Never place your head, hands, or arms out of a window. Keep all backpacks and feet out of the center aisle.
5. Eating, drinking, shouting, use of bad language, and fighting are prohibited.
6. No one may smoke on a school bus. Bus privileges will be suspended IMMEDIATELY for this infraction.
7. Certain items are prohibited on school buses. The list includes glass containers, animals, aerosol cans, large bulky objects, hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks, baseball bats, and skateboards. Hockey skates may be brought aboard only if the runners are covered. Musical instruments are allowed only if the instrument can be held on the student's lap. Other items may be added to this list by the Superintendent if it becomes apparent that an item creates an unsafe condition on the bus.
8. Help keep the bus clean by not throwing papers or other trash on the floor or seats. Do not make any marks on seats, sides or windows of the bus.
9. Leave your seat only when the bus has come to a complete stop at your destination and the bus driver has opened the door. Obey any instructions from the driver; leave the bus quickly but courteously without pushing.
10. Move 15 feet away from the bus onto the sidewalk where the driver can see you and wait for the bus to pull away completely before traveling home.
11. Do not go into the road for any reason. If you lose something in the road, tell the bus driver or your parent/guardian.
12. If you must cross a street as you leave the school bus:
  - ◆Walk ten giant steps beyond the bumper of the bus until you can see the driver.
  - ◆Stop! Wait for the driver's signal to cross.
  - ◆Cross and keep checking for traffic.
  - ◆Go to the edge of the bus. "Stop, look, and listen."
  - ◆Cross safely. (Walk straight across, not on an angle.)
  - ◆If not clear, or if the driver sounds the horn or tells you to stop, return to the bus side of the road. Begin these steps again.

13. Be alert to traffic when boarding or leaving the bus. Cross the street ONLY when the flashing warning lights on the bus are operating, traffic has stopped, and when the driver has signaled that it is safe to cross.

14. Do not depart the bus at any stop other than your assigned stop without written permission. If you forget to depart the bus at your stop, tell the driver right away

15. Permission for a change in bus or stop may be obtained from the Transportation Department. Emergency situations will be handled through the building principal's office.

**16. For safety reasons, only students, bus drivers, and district personnel are permitted to board school buses.**

17. Common courtesy toward the driver and other students is expected. The driver has full authority in the operations of the bus and discipline of the passengers. Drivers are due the same respect as teachers.

Pupils who continually disregard the above rules can expect to have their bus privileges suspended. Students may be warned about discipline infractions before a driver makes a written report. Multiple written reports may result in an exclusion from transportation for a specified period of time.

Parents please support the school by insisting on good behavior at the bus stops and on the bus. Please drive a safe distance from all buses and stop whenever yellow lights flash on a stopped school bus.

### HAVE A QUESTION OR A PROBLEM?

If you received your transportation letter and it does not indicate the correct information, please contact Laidlaw (684-9440) or Amherst Transportation Department (362-3035). Changes will be made based on an assessment of the entire route. Some changes may not be made until the first week of school so other riders can be notified.

Most questions are easily answered and most problems are solved after the first few days of school. Before calling, wait a few days to see if the problem corrects itself.

If a bus does not pick up your child at the scheduled stop, notify Laidlaw Transit, Inc. at 684-9440.

Routes may run late taking children home in the afternoon the first few days of school because bus loading takes longer, especially if it involves kindergarten children.

For your information, the District transports Amherst children to public and non-public schools. Each bus may service several schools during the morning and afternoon. A schedule problem at one school will impact on all schools.