

GETTING TO SCHOOL SAFELY!

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PASSENGERS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

Regional School Unit #23
90 Beach St.
Saco, Me. 04072

Riding the school bus is a *privilege*. Failure to adhere or conform to these rules and regulations may result in loss of school bus privileges.

Once a student boards the bus - - and only at that time - - does he or she become the responsibility of the school district. Such responsibility shall end when the child is delivered to the regular bus stop at the close of the day.

A. Prior to Boarding:

1. All pupils must be ready in the morning at the scheduled time for the bus to arrive at the "School Bus Stop". They need to arrive 5 minutes early in winter conditions and 10 minutes early in summer, fall, and spring conditions to the bus stop. They need to be out of vehicles as the bus approaches not when it stops.
2. Students must stand off the roadway while waiting at their designated bus stops where they can be seen by the approaching bus.
3. Students shall wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching or entering the bus. If you cross the road, you must do so in front of the bus after making sure the highway is clear, and having been directed by the driver to cross.
4. Pushing, shoving, or other annoyances, will not be allowed while boarding or leaving the bus or taking a seat.

B. On Board the Bus:

1. Students will observe classroom conduct and be under the guidance and control of the bus driver.
2. Students will be courteous to the bus driver and other students. Disrespectful behavior shown to other students or the bus driver will not be tolerated.
3. The bus driver will assign seats. Pupils will remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear.

4. Eating, chewing gum or drinking is not allowed on the bus.
5. Profanity, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any controlled substance is not allowed on the bus.
6. Hands, arms or any part of the body shall not be extended out of the windows or doors.
7. Nothing shall be thrown from, or into, or at the bus, bus driver, cars, pedestrians. Spitting is not allowed.
8. Reimbursement of costs for any damage done to the bus, caused by students, will be the responsibility of the student's parent(s) or guardian.
9. Students are permitted to carry only objects that they can hold in their laps. The following items are not allowed due to safety concerns: skateboards, snowboards, large band equipment, large sports equipment, and large school projects. Also there are no cleats, roller blades or heelys to be worn on the bus. Weapons, knives, and explosives are not allowed on bus.

C. Departing from the bus:

1. Pupils shall remain seated until the bus stops completely, and then leave their seat to depart. Students crossing the road must do so in front of the bus after directions from the bus driver.
2. Students will not be discharged at places other than the regular bus stop, at home or at the school, unless by proper written authorization from the Transportation Director.
3. Students will not be allowed to ride other buses unless there is a family emergency, (illness or death or when the parents are away from the home.) Students are not allowed to change buses for the purpose of going to a friend's home. Requests will only be permitted through written authorization of the transportation department, and only at times of emergency, otherwise students are expected to ride their regular buses.

D. State Law:

1. Students riding a bus having seat belts or booster seats, must use the seat belt if they are assigned to a seat having a seat belt, as it is required by law to do so.

E. Non-Compliance:

1. Bus misbehavior will not be tolerated. A bus driver cannot safely drive the bus and watch each child along the bus route. *Distractions could cause serious accidents.*

1a. The first offense will be a written warning for students in grades K-5. Students in grades 6-12 will receive a written warning and one (1) hour detention. **Offences of a serious nature may require an immediate suspension.**

1b. The second offence will be a one to three day suspension from riding the bus.

1c. The third offense will be a five to ten day suspension from the bus. A meeting will be held with the student, his/her parent(s), the principal, the bus driver, the transportation director, before a student may return to the bus.

1d. The fourth offense (s) will mean student can no longer ride the bus.

Any future offence(s) after a student has resumed riding privileges will mean complete suspension for the remainder of the year.

2. The above regulations apply to all bus students who ride a bus regardless of age or grade level. Once a student loses his privilege to ride the bus, he/she will be under suspension from riding all buses.

3. Bus rules apply for riding to and from school, or for activities requested by the various schools during the school year and are applicable to all who ride on the school bus.

F. Use of Video Cameras in Transportation Vehicles.

1. In an effort to keep to a minimum passenger behavior violations, video camera(s) will be used to monitor passenger behavior during transport to and from school and on extra curricular trips. When the resulting video tapes are used as a basis for discipline, parents/guardians, will be notified, but due to confidentiality, will not be permitted to view the content of said video. Students in violation of school conduct codes shall be disciplined in accordance with established policy and administrative guidelines, and school practices.

2. Bus slips will continue to be given for any inappropriate behavior on the bus.

PLEASE READ ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS AND SIGN BELOW THE DOTTED LINE ON THE BUS STUDENT INFORMATION FORM.