

Policy for Student Conduct on School Buses

In view of the responsibility and bus safety factor (dealing with the lives of the youth), the driver has authority over the bus and its passengers, and is accountable to the superintendent. Students are expected to maintain classroom conduct and respond to the request of the driver, or lose their privileges to ride the bus. It takes total cooperation of the administrators, drivers, students and parents to make a safe transportation program.

Responsibility of Students

Morrice Area Schools is committed to supporting your child by providing the best service possible with a safe and reliable transportation system. But, school bus safety also depends on student behavior. Students who wish to maintain the privilege of riding the school bus are expected to:

1. Observe classroom conduct.
2. Neither eat, or drink on the bus.
3. Stay seated, facing forward in selected or assigned seat. Do not sit with your feet in the aisle. The aisles must be kept clear at all times, keeping emergency exits clear.
4. keep their head and hands inside the bus at all times.
5. not throw objects of any kind while on the bus or out the windows.
6. not use any rude, discourteous or annoying, behavior and profane or obscene language/gestures on the bus. Students shall not bully, intimidate, harass, fight, push, trip or hit any other student.
7. not use or display tobacco, drugs, alcohol or weapons.
8. respect personal property of others.
9. cooperate with the driver.
10. not have animals on the bus.
11. not have glass containers on the bus.
12. use normal conversation, no screaming or yelling.
13. not spit, litter or leave trash on the bus.

Safety Guidelines for Students

Students must abide to the following.

1. Stay off the traveled roadway at all times while waiting or departing the bus.
2. Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before attempting to board or exit.
3. Stand 20 feet from the road until the bus has come to a complete stop and the door opens for boarding.
4. Students should be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus arrives.
5. Talking is prohibited while the bus is at railroad crossings. Students also need to be quiet while the bus is backing up, during turnarounds, and during loading and unloading of students.
6. Student road crossing procedures:
 - a. Walk at least ten giant steps from the right front side of the bus (far enough so the bus driver can see the student's feet).
 - b. Wait for proper crossing signal from driver before walking in front of the bus.
 - c. Stop at traffic side of the bus (ahead of left bumper) and look left, right, left and then to the bus driver for the signal.
 - d. If all traffic has stopped, and driver gives permission, the student may proceed by walking across the roadway.
 - e. Never return to the road or bus, upon loading or unloading, to retrieve any items that are forgotten or dropped.
3. Accept joint responsibility with school authorities for proper conduct of their children.
4. Make a reasonable effort to understand and cooperate with those responsible for pupil transportation.
5. Always be aware, when the bus is early or late there is a reason.
6. Parents of younger children, please let us know you are home when the bus driver is dropping off your child/children. In order to ensure that the students are neither locked out or unattended in case of an emergency, a responsible person in the window or door is necessary.

Bus Stop Rules

1. The child needs to be waiting at the end of the driveway when the driver arrives at their stop. They should be ready and waiting about 5 minutes before the bus arrives.
2. In the event your child is not attending school that day, and your stop is a turn around, we require that you contact the transportation department to avoid unnecessary stops. This is also helpful for non-turn around stops. The driver will inform you if your stop is a turn around.
3. During the first week of school, expect the pick-up and drop-off times to vary. There will be adjustments to the times and number of stops.

Contact Information

Brian Eva
 Director of Transportation
 (517) 625-3143 ext. 228

Responsibility of the Parent

The following is requested of the parents.

1. Ensure that students are at the bus stop on time.
2. Provide necessary protection for their children when going to and from the bus stops.