

# SCHOOL BUS SAFETY REGULATIONS



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**Smyrna, DE 19977**

**653-3142**

**CONTRACTORS:**

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| B & P Transit               | 653-8466 |
| Crawford Safety Bus Co, INC | 222-9918 |
| Larkin's Bus Service        | 653-5855 |
| Lynwood Transportation      | 653-8453 |
| M & B Bus Service, LLC      | 270-6934 |

## **STUDENT CONDUCT REGULATIONS:**

Students will have a safe and pleasant bus ride to school if you observe these rules. Any act that could distract the bus driver from his/her job endangers the lives of many passengers and that is why these regulations must be enforced. Bus Conduct Report forms will be mailed to parents of misbehaving students. The bus riding privilege can be suspended for misconduct on the bus. A serious violation of these rules will result in expulsion from the bus for the duration of the school year.

1. Students must obey the driver promptly and be courteous to him/her, as well as fellow students. The driver is in full charge of the bus and students, with the same authority as a classroom teachers.
2. Students must be on time; the bus has to run on schedule and cannot wait for those who are tardy.
3. Students should never stand or play on the roadway while waiting for the bus.
4. Before boarding the bus, students must keep a safe distance from the bus while it is in motion.
5. Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and occupy their seats immediately.
6. Students must not try to get on or off the bus when it is in motion. When on the bus, they must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
7. Students must keep out of the driver's seat and remember that unnecessary conversation with the driver is prohibited while the bus is in motion.
8. In approaching the bus or a bus stop along the highway, a student should always walk on the left side of the road facing traffic. The student should be certain that the road is clear of all traffic or that all traffic has stopped before crossing only upon a signal given by the bus driver. Upon leaving the bus, the student should immediately walk around the front of the bus in clear view of the driver and stop before crossing. The student should make certain that the road is clear of all traffic or that all traffic has come to a complete stop before crossing only upon a signal given by the bus driver.
9. In crossing the street or highway at any time, students should look both to the right and to the left, then walk, not run.
10. Outside the ordinary conversation in normal tone, classroom conduct is to be observed when on the bus.
11. Students must not call out to passerby. They should not open the bus windows without permission from the bus driver; nor extend head or arms out of the windows.

12. Students must ride only the bus to which they have been assigned and shall not leave the bus without the driver's consent, except on arrival at their regular bus stop or at school. ***(A note from the parent/guardian is required for any student to get on or off the bus anywhere other than their regular stop.)***
13. Students should help to keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly. They must not damage or abuse the equipment.
14. Students are not permitted to smoke while on the bus.
15. Students must not use profanity while on the bus.
16. Students must not throw articles of any kind in, out, or around the bus.
17. Students are not to eat or drink while on the bus.
18. Students must not carry any object on the bus that could be a safety hazard on the trip to or from school.
19. Students are not permitted to use cell phones on the bus.
20. Other forms of misconduct that will not be tolerated are acts such as, but not limited to, indecent exposure, obscene gestures, and spitting.
21. Students are to conduct themselves while on the bus in such a way that it will not distract the driver from his/her job of driving.

### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS:**

The regulations and information included in this pamphlet have been prepared in order to provide a safer and more efficient transportation system for your children.

1. Explain the Student Conduct Regulations to your child and make sure he/she understands them.
2. Get to know the bus driver. ***Kindergarten students must be met by an adult at drop off.***
3. Be sure your student is at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
4. Be sure your student waits a safe distance from the roadway.
5. Encourage your student to respect private property while waiting for the bus.
6. Insist on good behavior on the part of your student so the driver can concentrate on driving.

7. If your student is small, be sure whatever is carried on the bus can be comfortably handled by the student.
8. If possible, signal or notify the bus driver that your student will not be riding on days when it is necessary for him/her to be absent from school.
9. When a school bus is stopped on a roadway or shoulder approximately parallel to the travel way and displays red flashing lamps....the driver of any vehicle approaching the school bus from the front or from the rear shall stop before passing the bus and remain stopped until such bus begins to move or no longer has the red stop lamps activated. On roadways with four or more lanes, the driver approaching from the front shall not stop.

### **THE BUS DRIVER:**

The bus driver is trained and tested in the safe operation of the school bus. Your cooperation will help provide the best possible service for all students on the route.

1. The driver must follow a planned time schedule.
2. The driver makes pick-ups and discharges at scheduled stops only.
3. The driver is responsible for the behavior of students while they are riding on the bus.
4. The driver must keep the bus in safe operating condition at all times.
5. The driver must keep the bus clean and comfortable at all times.
6. The driver must keep records required by the Board of Education.
7. The driver must report violations of the Student Conduct Regulations to the Transportation Supervisor.
8. The driver has the same authority as a teacher in the classroom.

### **SAFETY STANDARDS**

1. The Division of Motor Vehicles inspects school buses twice each year.
2. All drivers must take a special training class, a written examination, and a driving test in a school bus before obtaining the required School Bus Driver's License.
3. Drivers must have an annual eye and physical examination. A tuberculin examination is also required.



4. The Delaware State Police make spot checks for the School Bus Driver's License and for the safe conditions of the school buses.
5. All school buses must be constructed and equipped according to the Delaware Standards for School Buses established by the State Board of Education.
6. The State Board of Education and Delaware Law establish statewide uniform regulations for school bus operation.
7. Emergency evacuation drills will be held for all transported students.

#### **ELIGIBILITY FOR TRANSPORTATION:**

1. Students in grades K-6 who live one mile or more from school and students in grades 7-12 who live two miles or more from school are eligible.
2. For the purpose of determining a student's eligibility, measurements shall be by the most direct route provided by a public road or surfaced walkway. The distance is to be measured from the point where the drive or walkway intersects the street or road to the school building.
3. Route extensions of less than one-half mile will not be scheduled.
4. Eligibility requirements may be waived in the case of hazardous conditions, designated students with disabilities, or children with a certified medical reason.

#### **SCHOOL CLOSINGS:**

When the schools are closed due to weather conditions or other emergencies, the Superintendent or designee will make the final decision, no later than 5:30 a.m. AlertNow calls will be made as well as notification to WDOV, WDSB, WDEL, WILM, WQHQ/MLVW (radio) and WBOC (TV).