

BUS RIDERS CONTRACT

USD #461 Transportation Department welcomes parents and students to a new school year. Transportation of students' safety is the highest priority. In order to meet the conditions outlined by the State and provide safe, prompt movement of students, the school district has adopted standard regulations and procedures and has provided restrictive measure for violations of the rules. They are herein outlined for your information and for the guidance of your student. All school rules also apply to students while riding the bus. The school district is pleased to provide transportation for its students and solicits your assistance in helping create a safe, healthy operation. We ask your cooperation in developing proper behavior patterns for those students who ride the bus.

As a parent, I agree to:

1. Understand that once a transportation request is submitted a total of 2 complete business days are required BEFORE bus service can begin.
2. Have my child(ren) at the bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to the estimated pick up time. The driver will not wait.
3. Provide safe delivery of my child(ren) to and from the bus pick-up/drop-off location.
4. Be sure they are a safe distance (at least 10 feet from the traveled portion of the road) while waiting for the bus.
5. I understand that once my child(ren) misses the bus, other arrangements for getting them to school will be my responsibility. I will give my child(ren) instruction on what to do if they miss the bus.
6. Students will board and leave the bus at their designated stop only (listed on the transportation request).
7. All bus riding changes during the school day must be called in to the school office and a bus note issued by the office.
8. Large items cannot safely or conveniently be carried on the bus due to limited space.
9. My child(ren) will obey promptly and willingly to any reasonable directive of the driver.
10. Students will not be allowed to ride home on another bus with a friend or bring a friend home on their assigned bus without a signed note from home that has been verified by the school office.
11. I understand that if my child(ren) fails to obey any of the bus rules, an office referral will be issued.
12. If my child is issued an office referral, it will be reviewed with them by building administration. A short or long term suspension from the bus may be issued, depending upon the severity of the infraction.
13. Pay for any damages to school district property (including the school bus) that has been determined caused by my child(ren).

As a Bus Rider, I agree to:

14. Be at my bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to the estimated pick up time.
15. Be visible to my driver by waiting on a sidewalk or driveway that is at least 10 feet from the traveled portion of the road.
16. Not approach the bus until it has come to a complete stop, the service door has been opened, and the driver tells me it is safe to board the bus. I will not approach the bus anytime it is moving.
17. I will use the handrail each time I enter or leave the bus.
18. I will remain seated in my assigned seat (with my bottom on the seat), my feet on the floor, and face forward to keep aisles and exits clear.
19. I understand I may not put my feet or other belongings in aisles or on other seats, or lean across the seat in front of, across from, or behind me.
20. I will be courteous to fellow students and the bus driver.
21. I will not bring anything on the bus that is made of or contains glass (including mirrors).
22. I will follow all instructions given to me by my bus driver.
23. I will not throw any object out of the bus while waiting for, riding, or after leaving the bus.
24. I will not extend hands, arms, legs, head or objects from the bus windows at any time.
25. I am not permitted to shout or gesture to passing vehicles or pedestrians from the bus.
26. Windows may be put down when permitted to do so by the driver.
27. Upon leaving the bus, I will wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door before standing to exit. I will then exit single file in an orderly manner.
28. I will not distract the bus driver at any time.
29. I will **NEVER COME BACK TO A SCHOOL BUS TO RETRIEVE A DROPPED OR FORGOTTEN ITEM WITHOUT GETTING THE FULL ATTENTION OF THE DRIVER FIRST.**
30. I understand that if I do not obey any of the rules, I will be issued an office referral.
31. I understand that if I damage school property (including the school bus) in any way, I will be responsible for the cost of repairing the damage.

General Rules:

32. The driver of any school bus shall be responsible for the order and conduct of the pupils transported.
33. The driver has the responsibility to assign seats, and will be directed to do so as a matter of procedure.
34. The driver has the right to set bus stop locations based on safety and student population.

35. The driver is in control of students needed to cross a road in front of a bus and students must make eye contact and wait for the driver to motion them across the road before proceeding.
36. Classroom conduct is to be observed on the bus. Shouting, vulgar language or gestures are not permitted.
37. Riders must stay out of the driver's seat and may not tamper with any operating equipment.
38. Students may not mark, cut, or scratch any part of the bus. The person who is responsible will pay vandalism cost. Students will not be able to ride the bus until payment is made.
39. Students may not exit from the emergency door unless directed to do so by the driver.
40. Eating and drinking food and beverages on the bus is prohibited during route. **NO GLASS CONTAINERS OR BOTTLES ARE PERMITTED.**
41. Tobacco, drugs, or alcohol in any form will not be permitted on the bus.
42. Animals, knives, matches, firearms including cap and water pistols, explosives, glass and other similar breakables or any other items creating a safety hazard are not permitted on the bus.
43. Students should not bring CD players, I-pods, hand-held game systems, cell phones, etc. on the bus. USD #461 does not accept responsibility if these items are lost or stolen.
44. **NO GLASS** of any kind shall be permitted on a school bus. This includes fruit juice bottles, vases of flowers for special occasions, and school projects.
45. Adults are not permitted to board the bus without permission of the driver, school administration, or law enforcement.
46. Students who engage in conduct considered dangerous to the health and safety of themselves or to others will be subject to immediate emergency removal from the school bus pending a conference with his/her school administrator.
47. All discipline referrals are subject to administrator discretion.