



Chelsea Public Schools

Students, parents, transportation staff, principals and teachers must work together to ensure safe and pleasant school bus transportation.

The school bus safety rules apply to students during regular bus trips as well as extracurricular activities.



As a parent or guardian, you can help preserve the safety of all students by making sure you understand and support district rules and policies, regulations and principles of school bus safety. You should assist your child in understanding safety rules and encourage him or her to abide by the rules.

Parents or guardians should understand that students who ride school buses must obey all rules governing student transportation. School bus riding privileges may be suspended or terminated for repeated failure to follow applicable student transportation rules.

The Chelsea School Department strongly recommends that parents or guardians escort their children to and from their bus stop. Parents or guardians are responsible for their child arriving on time at the designated school bus stop in the morning. The school bus cannot wait for students not at the bus stop when the bus arrives.

As a parent or guardian you should talk to your child about strangers and child safety while at the designated bus stop. Teach your child never to go with a stranger. If your child encounters a stranger at the bus stop and the bus is still there, your child should get back on the bus and inform the driver of the situation. If your child does not feel safe staying at the bus stop because of a stranger, your child should stay on the bus and inform the driver of the situation.

If anything makes your child feel unsafe at the bus stop or on the bus ride, please contact the Parent Information Center, rather than trying to discuss it at the bus stop.

Know the Rules



The school bus is "*an extension of the classroom*". We have the same standards of behavior on the school bus as we do in school. Students who violate the behavior rules while on the bus may be disciplined, and/or denied transportation.

Everyone has a role in school bus safety and in encouraging positive behavior at bus stops and on the bus.



Waiting to Board the Bus

- While waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid behavior that can lead to carelessness. Do not stray onto streets, alleys or private property.
- Do not damage property, such as flowers, shrubbery, windows, fences, and other items while waiting for the bus.
- Stand well away from the street as the bus approaches. Do not run alongside the bus when the bus is moving. Wait until the bus stops; then walk to the door and board the bus in an orderly manner. Do not push or shove.

Riding the BUS



- Obey the instructions of the driver and the monitor. The driver/monitor has the authority to assign seats.
- Refrain from talking to the driver except in an emergency. Loud talking or other noise can distract the bus driver.
- Always face forward in the seat. Never put head, arms or hands out of the window. Do not wave or shout to pedestrians or occupants of other vehicles, and do not throw objects from the bus window.
- Avoid using inappropriate language. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Do not fight or scuffle on the bus or create any loud disturbances. Bullying is prohibited. A student can report another students' misbehavior on the bus to the bus monitor.
- No food or drinks may be consumed on the bus.
- Personal belongings should remain inside a backpack. Backpacks must be placed on the students lap.
- Aisles must be kept clear at all times.



Exiting the Bus

- Upon arrival at school or at the bus stop, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting up from the seat.
- Children should always cross the street at a crosswalk.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you. Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- Be alert for traffic. Walk across the street, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes. Although drivers of all vehicles are required to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers, children should not rely on them to do so.
- Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times. Be aware of the "danger zones" – the areas to the front, sides and rear of the school bus that are not in direct eye contact to the driver.

