

PARENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SAFELY GETTING STUDENTS TO AND FROM THE BUS STOP & FOR BEING SAFE ON THE BUS

Parents have a right to expect Transportation services which are...

- physically and emotionally safe,
- provided on busses which are safe and clean,
- fulfilled by drivers who treat everyone professionally, and who operate the bus safely and efficiently.

While the list below is not exhaustive, it indicates many of the safely topics parents are responsible for teaching their children. Parents should also review the “Rights and Responsibilities of Students” for Transportation.

1. Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege may be temporarily denied or permanently revoked if misconduct of the child jeopardizes the safe operation of the school vehicle or the safety of the children riding the bus. Therefore, it shall be the responsibility of the parent to provide safe transportation to and from school for students who have been denied the privilege of riding a school vehicle. The compulsory school attendance law remains in effect.
2. Parents should review the rules with their children.
3. Parents should be supportive of the drivers and encourage strict compliance with all Calvert County Public School bus rules and regulations regarding discipline, as well as safety related matters.
4. Parents are responsible for the safety of their children from the time the children leave home in the morning until they board the school vehicle and at the end of the day from the time the school vehicle departs the bus stop until the children reach home. Once the children enter the school vehicle, the responsibility for the child lies with the school vehicle driver and the school administration.
5. Children should leave their home early enough to arrive at the designated school vehicle stop or crossing point five minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the school vehicle.
6. Parents together with their children should develop a route to and from the school vehicle stop or school which minimizes the exposure of the children to vehicular traffic. The route should be direct and uninterrupted. Short cuts through isolated fields and woods or across streams often can be dangerous. Entering abandoned houses or deserted buildings by children on their way to or from the school vehicle stop or school should be actively discouraged.
7. Parents should walk with children to and from the school vehicle stop using the opportunity to teach the children proper pedestrian practices. If the parent cannot

accompany their children, arrangements should be made if possible for older children (brother/sister or neighbor) to escort the younger children to and from the school vehicle stop or school.\

8. Teach students...
 - a. to wait ten long paces away from where the bus will stop.
 - b. to always stay ten feet away from the bus on all sides.
 - c. to remain still until the bus has come to a complete stop, and the bus driver has activated all of the lights.
 - d. not to move towards the bus, while the bus is in motion.
 - e. to walk, not run, to and from the bus.
 - f. to always walk in a straight line to/from the service door. Never walk alongside the bus.
 - g. to ever cross the road behind the bus, only in front of the bus and only ten feet away from the front bumper. Make sure the student can see the bus driver's eyes.
 - h. never to use headphones or cell phones when boarding or unloading. They must be fully aware of their surroundings in order to be safe arriving at or leaving a bus stop.
 - i. never, ever go back towards a bus or attempt to go under a bus for anything that might have been dropped. Instead get the bus driver's attention.
 - j. never go near the rear wheels or rear bumper of the bus.
9. Parents should develop in their children a healthy awareness of how to, and how not to, interact with strangers. Do not permit your children to accept candy, soft drinks, money, toys, or rides from strangers, or to associate with anyone they do not know. Teach your children that if this problem is encountered on the way to or from school or at any other time the parent or teacher must be told as soon as possible. This is a police matter. Students should be taught to travel directly to and from home to the bus stop each morning and afternoon.
10. Weather should determine how children are to be dressed. Encourage your children to wear the type of clothing which will not only keep them warm and allow them to see where they are going, but also to permit them to be seen. If children cannot be seen by the drivers of vehicles, they are in danger.
11. Students must show consideration and respect for the property of those citizens whose home and places of business are located along their routes. Parents should be aware of their liability for damage caused by their children to the property of others, including;
 - a. the school vehicle
 - b. when children walk to and from the bus stop,
 - c. while they wait at the school bus stop
 - d. when they walk home from the unloading area at the end of their day.

12. Parents should encourage their children to be aware of their surroundings at all times so they can behave safely as pedestrians. Especially when boarding or disembarking students should not be using electronic devices, nor should they have any earpieces/headphones on over their ears.
13. Neither parents nor guardians are permitted to board the bus to load or unload the student, nor are the parents or guardians permitted to secure or release students from safety equipment on the bus. Parents are welcome to request a conference with bus staff by contacting the Transportation Department or their child's school principal.

Free school transportation is a privilege. Those who insist on violating the above rules and regulations shall be denied the privilege of riding a school vehicle. It shall be the responsibility of the parents to provide safe transportation to and from school for children who have been denied the privilege of riding a school vehicle. The compulsory school attendance law remains in effect. Certain students with disabilities may be given additional considerations per the Individual with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA).