

Bus Rules and Regulations

The Dover Area School District will provide transportation for our students in accordance with State and District guidelines. School bus transportation is a privilege and convenience that can be revoked. Persistent disregard of bus rules will result in a loss of bus riding privileges, along with potential school consequences. Should a student lose bus privileges, it becomes the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide transportation.

Students' time on the school bus is considered an extension of the school day, and expectations governing student conduct in school apply to students at bus stops and on the school buses. Students are required to conform to reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior; respect the rights, person and property of others; preserve the degree of order necessary to ensure safety; and obey constituted authority responding to student behavior. Parents/guardians are expected to monitor and encourage appropriate behavior at the bus stop. Inappropriate behaviors at the bus stop and on the bus are subject to school disciplinary action and should be reported immediately to the bus driver.

E & B Transportation aids the Dover Area School District in maintaining the safety of its students by obtaining video and audiotapes of all behavior on its buses. As a result, students and their parents/guardians are informed that they should not expect any conversations or behavior to be exempt from this recording. The district maintains responsibility over the safety and conduct of students while being transported on an assigned school bus. As such, the following bus conduct rules should be respected and will be enforced by school officials:

At the Bus Stop:

- Students should be waiting at the designated bus stop at least **10 minutes** before bus arrival time.
- Always stand back away from the road.
- All students are to enter and exit the bus in an orderly fashion.
- Take 7 giant steps when leaving the bus.
- Always enter or exit the bus through the front door. The rear door is not to be used except in an emergency.
- When crossing the road, always cross in front of the bus. Make sure it is safe to cross by looking both ways for approaching vehicles before crossing.
- Never go back to the bus after crossing the street for anything.
- Never bend down or stop near the bus.

On the Bus:

- The Driver has absolute control of the bus and of the conduct of those riding on it, except in the presence of a teacher or principal.
- Observe classroom conduct. Expectations for bus behavior mirror classroom behavior expectations.
- Be courteous; No profanity.
- Cooperate with the Driver.
- No smoking/vaping.
- No fighting, pushing or shoving.
- Remain seated and facing forward during your bus ride. Keep arms and legs out of the aisle.
- Never put your hands, arms or head out of a bus window.
- Never attempt to get off or on the bus while it is in motion. Remain seated until the bus stops.
- Only musical instruments that can be carried on the lap comfortably are allowed to be brought on the bus.
- Do not bring toys, food, or drinks (except water) on the bus.
- Do not bring pets on the bus.

- Do not bring flammable material on the bus.
- Do not litter, deface, or damage the bus in any way. **Students will be held accountable** for the repair or replacement cost of deliberately damaged bus property.
- Have a safe trip.

Students are only allowed to be assigned to one AM bus, and one PM bus. This does not pertain to pre-arranged childcare/daycare or **court appointed** custody arrangements. Students may not ride any other bus unless an exception has been granted by an Administrator and/or the Transportation Coordinator, in the instance of an extreme emergency.

Concerns about bus or bus stop behavior should be addressed with your child's School Principal.

Bus Safety

Safety Tips from the National Safety Council

Students:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away from the bus. Keep a safe distance between you and the bus. Also, remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver gives his/her signal that it's okay to approach.
- Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all drivers follow those rules. Protect yourself and watch out!
- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness. Do not stray onto streets, alleys or private property.

Parents are encouraged to reinforce these Safety Tips with their children:

- Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches. Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- When on the bus, find a seat and sit down. Loud talking and other noise can distract the bus driver and is not allowed. Never put head, arms or hands out of the window.
- Keep aisles clear: Books or bags are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
- Before you reach your stop, get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.
- At your stop, wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat. Then, walk to the front door and exit, using the hand rail.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet in front 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. When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the rear wheels of the bus at all times.

Source: National Safety Council, www.nsc.org.