

This publication is a handy summary of regulations relating to school bus transportation services provided by the Board of Education for the Park Hill School District. Whether you are a student, a parent, an interested patron, you should find the answers to most of your questions in this brochure. If you should have more specific questions, please contact our transportation contractor, First Student at 741-4023 or the school district's Transportation Director at 359-4100.

TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

Any student whose residence is one road mile or more from the school they are assigned shall be eligible for district transportation. Students living less than one mile from school will be transported only when the route for walking is deemed to be hazardous.

TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

The district will provide transportation for students to and from home, except in emergency situations.

No student may get on or leave the bus any place along the route other than at their normal bus stop.

The safety of all riding the bus is dependent on the driver's ability to attend to driving. Unauthorized behavior draws the driver's attention from the important task of attending to the safe transportation of students. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the rules for proper conduct. Parents and guardians are encouraged to review the list with their son or daughter to ensure appropriate behavior.

SCHOOL BUS RULES

For the safety of all students the following rules have been established by the Park Hill School District Board of Education:

1. Follow the driver's directions.
2. Sit facing front in your seat with feet out of the aisle.
3. Keep hands, feet, and belongings to yourself and inside the bus at all times.
4. All items carried onto the bus must be held or secured in the students lap.
5. Oversized objects, glass containers, animals, use of tobacco, food, candy, gum or drink are prohibited.
6. Arrive to the bus stop five minutes prior to pick-up time. Buses will not wait for late riders.
7. Students who cross the road at a bus stop must wait for the driver's hand signal and must always cross in front of the bus. Always make sure the driver is looking at you and signals before you cross.

The bus driver is responsible for maintaining discipline aboard the bus in a friendly but firm manner. The bus driver is in charge when the students are in sight prior to boarding the bus or disembarking and while the bus is in route to or from school.

The principal or his/her designee is in charge of students when they are on or adjacent to school grounds.

Supervising teachers or coaches are in charge of students when on activity or athletic trips and must assist the drivers in maintaining discipline.

If a student consistently misbehaves and the driver decides that he/she cannot safely transport the other students aboard the bus, the driver shall:

- Refer the problem to the building principal by way of a misconduct slip.
- Request assistance of law enforcement official.
- Release the child to a school administrator or bus company official.

If the bus driver issues a misconduct slip:

- Students who receive the first and second misconduct will be allowed to ride the bus on a probationary basis after the parent has signed the slip and the student returns it to the bus driver. However, the principal may suspend the student from riding the bus on the first or second offense for serious infractions.

- Students who receive the third misconduct shall be suspended from riding the bus for a minimum of 5 days and until a conference with the parents, bus company, principal, and student can be held.

- Students who receive the fourth misconduct shall be suspended from riding the bus for a minimum of 90 calendar days.



PRINCIPLES GOVERNING DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION ROUTING

- Bus routes are organized so that no student shall be required to ride a bus longer than 45 minutes to or from school except in extreme circumstances. Students who live farthest from their school will have longer rides.
- Bus routes and schedules may change according to load counts, shifts in local housing patterns, availability of buses, changes in school attendance zones, and inclement weather.
- Buses will not leave the main traveled roadway and drive into dead-end streets or cul-de-sacs to pick up elementary students who live ½ mile or less and secondary students who live less than one mile from the roadway, unless hazardous walking conditions have been determined by the school district.
- Bus stops shall be established based upon a centralized bus stop. State Law requires a 300' of visibility from the front and back of the bus.
- Bus stops shall be established at least two-tenths of a mile apart, unless hazardous conditions make it impractical to do so.
- Roads other than county, state, or city identified are not acceptable for bus routing.
- Roads must be regularly maintained by a responsible agent and be sufficiently wide to permit a bus to pass or safely meet another vehicle.
- Brush must be cut along roadways by responsible agencies or patrons so that branches or limbs do not break lights or windows or damage the exterior of the bus.

TRANSPORTATION HIGHLIGHTS

- The cost of operating the transportation system is shared by the State of Missouri and Park Hill School District.
- Special service is provided for orthopedic handicapped and pre-school students.
- All buses receive scheduled maintenance inspection and service. One-hundred percent of the buses passed the annual Missouri State Highway Patrol Safety Inspection the first day.
- Parents may request the school district to review hazardous conditions for a particular bus route or stop.
- An Alternate Route Application must be completed if students are to be picked up or returned to an address other than their home residence. This application is available at any school building.
- A video monitoring system has been installed in school buses as an added tool for the driver and district to improve the safety for the children while riding the bus. This is a visual tool to be used in conjunction with the ongoing student and driver training emphasizing **safe, acceptable** behavior on a school bus.
- All drivers must be a minimum of 21 years of age, must have a class B commercial driver's license, a Missouri School Bus endorsement, and must have an annual physical examination, and a mandatory drug test.
- All drivers receive a minimum of 40 hours training prior to transporting students.

“SAFELY TRANSPORTING OUR FUTURE”



PARK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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