BUS CONDUCT RULES

School bus transportation is a privilege afforded pupils by the Board of Education. It is not a right. To protect the safety and well-being of all involved, pupils must adhere to established bus conduct rules. Bus transportation privilege may be revoked if the pupil does not observe bus conduct expectations.

Bus Conduct Rules
1. Students must always conduct themselves in an orderly manner and obey all bus safety rules.
2. All students are under the jurisdiction of the driver while aboard each bus. Students should respect others at all times.
3. The driver is responsible for seating arrangements on each bus.
4. Students are to remain seated while the bus is in motion.
5. Students must refrain from loud talking, horseplay, throwing objects on or from the bus, or doing anything that will detract from the driver’s attention. Students must also refrain from fighting, threats of violence, or verbal conflicts.
6. Anyone damaging a bus will be responsible for restitution.
7. All parts of the body must be kept inside the bus at all times.
8. Smoking, chewing gum, eating, or drinking on the bus is not permitted.
9. It is the responsibility of the driver and each rider to help keep the bus clean.
10. The use of profanity on the bus will not be allowed.
11. Students will be picked up and delivered at their regular designated site each day. Written requests from the parent or guardian will be filed with the principal if it becomes necessary for a student to depart a bus other than at his/her regular stop. The principal will authorize the driver to make such a stop. Exceptions may be made if a safety hazard is involved.
12. Buses are provided for transporting students; therefore, large objects such as boxes, recreation equipment, large band instruments, etc. should not be on a bus.
13. Students must refrain from inappropriate display of affection.
14. School authorities make assignments to specific buses.
15. Students are expected to abide by the Douglas County School System Student Conduct, Behavior and Discipline Code.

BUS SUSPENSION

A pupil found guilty of certain offenses may be suspended from the bus for a period up to the remainder of the school year.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The school bus is an extension of the classroom. The school day begins when the student enters the bus and ends when the student leaves the bus. It is the responsibility of the individual school administration (not the driver) to determine and enforce disciplinary actions and notify the parents.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

To protect the safety and well-being of all riders, pupils must follow bus conduct rules. Students who insist on violating the Bus Conduct Rules will be disciplined as follows:

General or Minor Offenses
Behavior such as chewing gum, talking loudly, bringing food or beverages on the bus, cell phone use, etc. is considered a general or minor offense.

Serious or Major Offenses
More serious or major offenses and repeated offenses may require immediate attention by the school administration and/or Law Enforcement/School Resource Officer. Examples of serious offenses include (but are not limited to) weapons, illegal substances, assault, threats or intimidating behavior towards another student, bus driver, or bus monitor.

Emergency Suspension of School Activities

Abnormal conditions sometimes occur which require temporary suspension of school activities. These possible conditions include inclement weather (ice and snow storms); failure of power, gas, or water supply, and breakdown of heating system.

Some situations affect only one school while in other cases several or all Douglas County Schools may be involved. In all instances the safety, welfare, and health of students and employees are the factors considered in making a decision as to whether or not to suspend temporarily the normal activities of a school day.

The Superintendent has the responsibility of making decisions on suspension of school activities. If the Superintendent is not available, a person designated by the Superintendent will assume this responsibility. School principals will be notified of such action by the most expeditious direct means, either by telephone or personal contact.

SEVERE WEATHER / EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOLS

The Superintendent is authorized to close schools in cases of emergencies or severe weather. WBRE Radio and TV are the stations first notified of emergency announcements for the Douglas County School System.

BUS LOADING ZONES

Bus loading zones at the schools are restricted to school buses only during the 30 minutes immediately before and after school. Cars in the bus lanes present a serious safety hazard for pupils. To protect pupils, unauthorized vehicles in bus loading zones are subject to ticketing.

NEED INFORMATION??

For information about:
- Your bus route or schedules go to http://www.k12.va.us/ or call your child’s school.
- Your school contact information go to http://www.douglas.k12.va.us/ and find the Transportation tab under departments or call the Transportation Office at (770) 651-2400.

The Transportation Office is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

THE RIDE-GUIDE

RIDE SAFE SO YOU CAN RIDE TOMORROW

Information For Parents and Students About School Transportation

Douglas County School System
P.O. Box 1077, Douglasville, GA 30133
Transportation Office (770) 651-2400
www.douglas.k12.ga.us

The Douglas County School System does not discriminate in employment or educational activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religious, physical handicap, or disability.

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
WELCOME ABOARD

School bus service is available for eligible pupils enrolled in the Douglas County School System. To be eligible for school bus service a pupil must attend school in his/her assigned district and live one-tenth or more miles from the school.

SERVICE CRITERIA

Parents are responsible for their children going to and from the bus stop and while waiting at the bus stop.

Write permission from a parent, signed by the principal, is required for a child to ride a bus on which he/she is not assigned or to leave the bus at a stop other than his/her assigned stop.

Student must be at their designated bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pick-up time located at http://webquery.douglas.k12.ga.us-schulog/webquery. The time period is an anticipated time. Please be aware that the bus is considered on time if it is within 5 minutes, early or late, of the anticipated time.

Buses cannot wait for latecomers.

If a student misses the bus, Douglas County School System Transportation is not responsible for coming back to pick up the student.

Only authorized persons may board or ride a school bus.

Glass, items too large to fit in a pupil’s lap, weapons, fireworks, pets, guns, and other similar devices and hazardous materials are not permitted on the bus.

ON-STREET BUS SERVICE

Buses are routed along major streets. For a bus to be routed down a street off the trunk route, the following two criteria must be met.

1. A child’s walking distance to the nearest bus stop is:
   a. greater than .2 mile or more for elementary school students;
   b. greater than .3 mile or more for middle or high school students.

2. The street is safe for bus travel and has a safe bus turnaround.

BUS STOPS

- Drivers are not permitted to deviate from their route without permission from a route supervisor.
- Bus stops to be spaced at least two-tenths (.2) mile or more apart. Exceptions are allowed only in response to a safety hazard.
- Buses are not permitted to travel on closed or flooded roads. Bus stops served by such a road will be temporarily relocated to the closest safe location. Service will be restored once conditions permit.
- Bus stops on the routes are not always the same as the previous year.
- Buses are not to be routed on private property (this includes most mobile home parks and apartment complexes).
- If a student has no key, objects to disembarking the bus, or if the stop is less than 20 feet, the driver will radio for instructions.
- The parent/guardian is responsible for submitting special requests for permanent drop offs to transportation and the school.

Parents can help us by:

- Making sure your child is at the bus stop five minutes early.
- Reviewing bus safety rules with your child and stress the necessity of observing them.
- Teaching your child to obey the bus driver.
- Cooperating with school officials and school bus drivers regarding appropriate conduct of your child at the bus stop and on the bus.
- Helping your student understand that student behavior on school buses is an extension of classroom behavior.
- Educating your children on the rules of school bus safety.
- Reminding your child to walk on the sidewalk, or the shoulder of the road, on the way to the bus stop and not on the traveled portion of the road.
- Reminding your child to wait in a safe place, well off the road, until the bus comes to a stop.
- Students should not move toward the bus until the bus and all traffic have stopped. Students should stop and look before crossing the road when preparing to board or deboard the bus. It is very important to look - do not expect approaching traffic to stop.
- Periodically remind your student of the importance of manners and orderly behavior at the bus stop. Periodically check on students at the bus stop.
- Accompanying very young children to the bus stop and meeting them on their return from school when possible.

SAFE RIDING

9 Safety Rules for Students

1. Dress for the weather - umbrella and raincoat for rain; coat and gloves when cold.
2. Never stand or play in the road. Wait for the bus a safe distance from the road.
3. Always use the handrail when boarding or leaving the bus.
4. Remain seated and keep hands/feet inside when the bus is moving. Your seat is designed to protect you in the event of an accident.
5. Never try to reach for anything under or beside a bus. Ask your driver for help.
6. Observe silence when approaching and while stopped for railroad crossings so the driver can hear if a train is coming.
7. Look carefully before crossing the road. Do not assume a car will stop for you - wait to be sure it is stopped before crossing. Watch for your driver’s signal before crossing the road.
8. Always cross in front of the bus - NEVER behind it!
9. Talk quietly while on the bus. Do not “hype play”. Your driver must give full attention to driving to ensure your safety.
THE MORNING BUS STOP

1. Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes early.
2. Wait at the bus stop in a safe place 12 feet off of the road if possible.
3. Stay on your side of the road until the bus driver gives you instructions to cross.
4. Wait in an orderly group and load the bus in an orderly fashion.
5. Keep electronic equipment and ear buds packed away as you prepare to load the bus.
6. If you miss the bus, you must return home and contact a parent or guardian. DO NOT chase the bus or go to another bus stop.

THE AFTERNOON BUS STOP

1. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting off of your seat.
2. Have all items in your book bag before getting off the bus, including electronic equipment and ear buds.
3. Look for traffic when you are exiting the bus...do not step off bus if traffic is not stopped.
4. Walk 6 steps or 12 feet away from the school bus and go directly home if you do not cross the road.
5. If you have to cross the road, wait for your driver to signal you and stay alert for danger.
6. If you hear a horn, it is a warning signal! Stop, find the danger, and move away as quickly as possible.

WHAT DOES “SOAR” MEAN?

“SOAR” stands for riding the school bus to school ... Safely, Orderly And Respectfully!

Your parents expect you to be safe, orderly and respectful. Your teachers expect you to be safe, orderly and respectful. Your driver expects you to be safe, orderly, and respectful too. We expect this in and around the school bus!

BUS EVACUATION INFORMATION

If we need to get off the school bus quickly in an emergency, what will we do? Learn all the possible exits (front door, rear door, labeled windows and roof hatch(es)) on your school bus.

THE “DANGER ZONE”

The Danger Zone is 12 feet all the way around the school bus! Twelve feet is about the same as 6 steps for an adult but more for a child.

- Make sure you can see the driver. If you cannot see the driver, they cannot see you.
- Only approach a school bus at the door and only if the driver has given you the signal that it is OK to approach. Before you move, look both ways for danger!
- Walk six steps away from the school bus any time you are unloading.
- Stay away from the most dangerous areas: the bumpers, tires, and behind the school bus.
- Be aware of any passing cars. Do not rely on them to stop.

Respect the “Danger Zone” and stay away from it. Following these tips will help protect you when loading and unloading a school bus.

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Student well-being depends on all of us choosing to work together by making good choices that protect them. Isn’t that a commitment we can all make?

Sometimes a lack of understanding can be a barrier to achieving mutually accepted goals. Do you understand what is needed to protect each and every student who rides a school bus?

The purpose of this brochure is to equip all of our stakeholders to participate in helping us protect 100% of our students 100% of the time, learn about school safety and apply what you learn to protect our students. Won’t you please join us?
LOADING ON DOOR SIDE
A blowing bus horn means danger.
Look & find safety.

1. STAY on your side of the road until your bus arrives.
2. STAY at least 12 feet away from the road where possible.
3. WAIT for the bus to stop and for the door to open.
4. Look and WAIT for all traffic to stop before stepping towards the bus. The stop arm is asking cars to stop, but they may not stop. If you see a car moving, do not move forward until it has stopped.
5. Continue to LOOK in both directions for moving cars as you walk straight towards the bus door. Be sure your bus driver can see you.
6. Stay away from the front and rear bus tires and board the bus without delay.
7. The signal for danger is the continuous blowing of the bus horn. If you hear the bus horn blow, look for dangerous vehicles and get out of the way.

LOADING ACROSS THE ROAD
A blowing bus horn means danger.
Look & find safety.

1. STAY on your side of the road, 12 feet away from traffic where possible.
2. WAIT for the bus to stop and the stop arm to extend. Wait for your bus driver’s signal before you begin to cross. When you get to the edge of the road…STOP
3. STOP walking before stepping into the roadway and LOOK both ways for moving traffic. If a car is moving, do not step into the road. When it is OK…LOOK
4. LOOK for moving traffic both ways as you walk directly across the road.
5. CROSS 12 feet in front of the bus in full view of your driver. Be careful in the danger zone and board the bus without delay.
6. Use the handrail and go directly to your seat.
7. Remember, if the bus driver sees danger, they will use their horn to signal danger.

UNLOADING ON DOOR SIDE
A blowing bus horn means danger.
Look & find safety.

1. STAY on the bus until the bus stops and wait in the aisle until the driver’s "OK" to begin to exit.
2. While still on the steps LOOK for moving cars in all directions, especially the right, before you step off the bus.
3. WALK straight away from the right, front of the bus in full view of your driver, going past the end of the bus crossing gate. Be very careful in the danger zone!
4. STOP and face the center of the road. WAIT for your bus driver to signal when it is safe to begin to cross. Then look for moving cars as you walk to the center of the road.
5. STOP there and WAIT again for your driver’s 2nd signal that it is safe to finish crossing.
6. Continue to LOOK for moving traffic as you promptly cross and exit 12 feet off the road.
Things to Remember When Riding a School Bus

- Be at your stop 5 minutes early, the bus will not wait for latecomers.
- Wait for your driver to give directions before crossing the road.
- If the driver permits electronic devices, ear buds/headphones must be used with one ear remaining open. No ear buds/headphones when loading/unloading the school bus.
- Remain seated while bus is in motion.
- The school bus is an extension of the classroom, therefore the same rules apply.
- DCSS buses will not return to a stop to pick up students who missed their bus.
- Principal must have written permission from parent/guardian in order for a student to ride a different bus.