

Cheshire Public Schools Transportation

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Safety Tips for Parents

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep parents and students up-to-date on various issues regarding school bus transportation.

Dear Parents

- Parents please discuss the tips for safe school bus riding with your child and ask them to learn the school bus driver's name. Your child should understand school bus riding is a privilege and permission to continue riding can be withdrawn if order and conduct is unruly.
- Give your child a backpack or book bag to carry papers and belongings. It will keep him or her from losing an item in the street and bending down to pick it up (a major cause of school bus fatalities).
- Tell children to remove their backpacks and hold them on their laps while they are riding on the bus. The packs tend to push them forward and defeat the passive restraint system built into school buses.
- Assure your children that you won't be mad if they don't go back for a jacket they've left on the bus or work they've dropped under a wheel.
- It is suggested that raincoats be purchased in a color other than yellow since yellow slickers blend into the bus and make children hard to see. If you already have yellow slickers, you may want to add reflective tape or decals in a color other than yellow.
- Join with other parents to monitor your bus stop. Parents are responsible for their children's safety.
- Don't allow younger siblings to meet the bus unattended; if you take young children to meet the bus, hold their hands at all times.
- Do not tell your child it is OK to cross the street to board the bus unless the driver has said it is safe to do so. The driver may be observing a hazard that may not be visible to you or your child.
- Stress the importance of not playing or fooling around at the bus stop. Tell your child to stand somewhere safe, preferably about 15 feet off the roadway and tell them not to push or shove while approaching or getting on the bus. Someone could get pushed in front of the moving bus or an oncoming vehicle.
- Stress the importance of good behavior inside the bus. It is as important as outside. Do not be offended if your child receives a bus conduct / safety form for his or her actions. The safety of all of the students is the first priority of the driver.
- Watch for loose clothing. Parents should either remove children's drawstrings or cut them as short as possible and fasten them to the garment so they can not slide and extend further out one side of their channel. Scarves, baggy clothes, jackets thrown over the shoulder, book bags, etc. all pose a hazard to a rider when they are leaving the bus. All of these items can get caught in the tightly closing door.
- Parents are reminded to have their children at the bus stop early in the morning (ten minutes prior to expected bus arrival) and to be available, if possible, to help their children cross the street safely in the afternoon.
- Regarding the school bus stop law, motorists need to be persuaded that the few seconds or minutes they save by passing a stopped school bus are insignificant compared to saving a child's life.
- **FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS MEAN CAUTION, THE BUS IS ABOUT TO STOP. FLASHING RED LIGHTS MEAN STOP, CHILDREN ARE GETTING ON OR OFF THE BUS. WHEN THE RED LIGHTS ARE FLASHING, ALL TRAFFIC MUST STOP--BOTH WAYS. THESE MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS ALSO APPLY TO VEHICLES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.**

*Safely Delivering Our
Future To and From
School Daily*