

Washington Unified School District
Transportation Department
(916) 375-7688

SAFETY/DRIVER TRAINING/BUS RULES

Safety:

School Bus Transportation requires drivers to have a high level of competence and skills to ensure the safe transportation of your child.

Students transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of, and directly responsible to the driver of the bus. The bus driver is responsible for the health, safety and good conduct of the students entrusted in his/her care. Each student is expected to respect and obey all of rules while in the care of the driver.

TRANSPORTATION IS A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT

School Bus Driver Training:

To ensure safe school bus drivers, the Washington Unified School District and the State of California requires all drivers to attend regularly scheduled safety meetings and in-service training programs to improve their skills. In addition, state law requires each driver to obtain traffic and criminal clearances, pass a physical examination, and participate in the drug and alcohol testing program. Through an extensive training process, each school bus driver must qualify for a valid School Bus Driver Certificate and receive First Aid training and testing.

Pickup Procedure:

Students will be picked up at their designated bus stop. Students must be at their designated bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time.

Drop Off At Home Procedure:

Students shall be dropped off at their designated bus stop. (If a student needs to go to a different bus stop, the student must have a note from a parent/guardian and signed by school staff).

Bus Rules – All rules will be strictly adhered to:

1. Students shall be at their designated bus stop 5 minutes prior to scheduled pickup time. (And be 10 feet away from where the bus will stop.)
2. Students shall be lined up in an orderly manner at the bus stop. No dangerous conduct will be tolerated.
3. Students shall load and unload in an orderly manner.
4. Seat belts, if provided, are required while bus is in motion.
5. Students shall remain seated, facing forward in their seats at all times. Legs, feet or other objects are not to obstruct the aisle.
6. Students shall cross the street in FRONT of the bus, never cross the street behind the bus.
7. Students shall exit through the front door, not through emergency doors, windows, etc... except in an emergency.
8. Students shall be respectful and courteous to the driver and other passengers at all times.
9. Students will not smoke or have any fire on the bus at any time.
10. Students will not fight, create excessive noise, litter, tamper with bus equipment or deface property.
Parent/guardian will be responsible for any damage caused by their child.
11. No eating, drinking, chewing gum, cell phone use, animals, reptiles, insects, glass containers, or other hazardous objects on the bus.
12. Students shall not use abusive language or obscene gestures on or near the bus.
13. Students shall not extend any part of their body or any of their possessions out of the window of the bus.
14. Students shall board and be discharged only at their designated bus stop. Unless written permission from their parent/guardian and signed by school staff.
15. Students shall not throw objects out of the bus windows.

Each student must behave in a satisfactory manner in order for the driver to be alert to the many hazards. A student who does not follow the bus rules shall be denied transportation. Your reinforcement of the bus rules and occasional communication with your child's bus driver will help in maintaining a low level of discipline problems.

DENIAL OF TRANSPORTATION

Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a student to be denied transportation. *Transportation is a privilege not a right.*

FIRST VIOLATION

Upon first violation of the bus rules, a written warning will be issued, unless in the judgment of the Transportation Supervisor, the penalty should be more severe. (Parent notified by mail)

SECOND VIOLATION

A second violation of the bus rules shall result in a suspension of transportation privileges for a period of time determined by the Transportation Supervisor. (Parents notified by mail)

THIRD VIOLATION

A third violation of the bus rules shall result in an additional suspension or in the judgment of the Transportation Supervisor, a loss of transportation privileges. (Parents notified by mail)

TRANSPORTATION PRIVILEGES WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DENIED FOR ANY ACT, WHICH ENDANGERS OTHER PASSENGERS OR THE DRIVER, OR ANY ACT OF VANDALISM.

Stop When Red Lights Flash, student loading: (Nonescort bus stop)

The Washington Unified School District will use the flashing red lights when loading or unloading student. All will students will follow the procedure below.

1. The school bus driver shall activate the amber warning light system 200 feet before the bus stop.
2. The school bus driver shall activate the right turn signal 100 feet before the bus stop.
3. The school bus driver shall stop 10 feet from waiting students.
4. The school bus driver will deactivate the amber warning light system and activate the Red light signal system and the stop signal arm, if so equipped.
5. Students shall not walk towards the bus until the bus comes to a complete STOP and the driver has opened the door.
6. Students shall walk toward the bus in an orderly manner and board single file. One hand should be free to use the handrail.

Stop When Red Lights Flash, student unloading: (Driver Escort)

1. The school bus driver shall activate the amber warning light system 200 feet before the bus stop.
2. The school bus driver shall activate the right turn signal 100 feet before the bus stop.
3. The school bus driver shall stop 10 feet from waiting students.
4. The school bus driver shall stop the engine and remove the ignition key, for K -8th grade students.
5. The school bus driver shall deactivate the amber warning light system and activate the flashing red light system and stop signal arm, if so equipped.
6. The school bus driver shall stand in the center of the roadway with a hand held stop sign and direct the students to cross the street, students shall not cross the street without direction from the school bus driver, for K -8th grade students.
7. Students will walk between the driver and the front of the bus, for K -8th grade students.

Please call the Transportation office with any question or concerns at (916) 375-7688.