

**THE ROLE OF PUPILS AND PARENTS IN TRANSPORTATION**

The Board of Education has a moral obligation for pupils walking to and from established bus pick-up points. However, the legal responsibility lies with parents.

The responsibility of the school board begins when the child sets foot on the school bus. This responsibility ceases at the end of the school day when the school bus departs and the student departs the bus stop.

The following guidelines suggest the role for pupils and parents as they relate to pupil transportation:

1. Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege may be temporarily denied or permanently revoked if misconduct of your child jeopardizes the safe operation of the school bus or the safety of the children riding the bus.
2. Parents are responsible for the safety of their children from the time they leave home in the morning until the time they board the school bus; and at the end of the school day from the time the school bus departs the loading area or unloading area and the children reach home. Once the child enters the school bus, the authority lies with the bus driver and the school administration.
3. Children should leave home early enough so that they arrive at the designated school bus stop or crossing point five (5) minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the school bus.
4. Parents should be aware of their responsibility not only for their child's behavior while on the school bus, but also their responsibility for damage caused by their children to the property of others, including the school bus. When a child walks to and from the bus stop or school, while he waits at the school bus stop, and when he walks home from the school bus stop at the end of the school day, he must show consideration and respect for the property of those citizens whose homes and places of business are located along these routes. Pupils violating this section will be disciplined.

5. Parent's together with the child should develop a route to and from the school bus stop or school which minimizes the exposure to vehicular traffic. Shortcuts through isolated fields and woods, or across streams or railroad tracks can often be dangerous. Entering of abandoned houses or deserted buildings by children on their way to and from school should not be condoned. The route should be direct and uninterrupted.
6. Parents should walk with younger children to and from the school bus stop, using this opportunity to teach the child proper pedestrian practices. If the parents cannot accompany their children, arrangements should be made, if possible, for older children (brother, sister, neighbor) to escort the younger children to and from the school bus stop or school.
7. Parents should develop in their children an awareness of the molestation (personal harassment ) problem. Do not permit your child to accept candy, soft drinks, money, toys, or rides from strangers or to associate with anyone they do not know. If your child is confronted with these problems on his/her way to or from school he must tell you or his teacher as soon as possible. This is a situation that will be handled by the police.
8. Parents should realize the weather determines how a child is to be dressed. Encourage your child to wear the type clothing that will not only keep him warm and enable him to see where he is going, but also will permit him to be seen. If the drivers of vehicles cannot see children, they are in danger. For example, white clothing is difficult to see in snow, but makes one clearly visible at night. If the weather is inclement, the child should be dressed for the occasion and leave a few minutes earlier than his normal starting time in order to reach the school bus stop or school safely and on time.
9. In inclement weather announcements regarding the opening of schools begin at approximately 6:30 A.M. During severe weather conditions, pertinent information concerning the transportation program will be announced on radio. Do not call the local school authorities for this information.
10. The application of common sense is the best method of determining the role of the parents regarding the safety of children traveling to and from school, either as a passenger on a school bus or as a pedestrian.