

Fruitland School District #373 Student Transportation

Policies & Parent/Guardian Responsibilities & the Transportation System

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to:
- Parents/guardians must understand that students who ride school buses must obey all laws, rules, and regulations governing student transportation. School bus riding privileges may be suspended or terminated for repeated failure to follow applicable student transportation laws, rules, and regulations.
- Parents/guardians should recognize their responsibilities for the actions of their children.
- Parents/guardians must be aware of the dangers involved in and around loading and unloading zones, including the dangers of loose clothing, clothing accessories and other loose personal items.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for:
- Parents/guardians have an obligation to respect the rights and privileges of others.
- Parents/guardians should be knowledgeable about the traffic laws regarding when to stop for school buses.

Parents/guardians should be made aware of section 18-1522, Idaho Code, regarding unauthorized school bus entry. It reads: **UNAUTHORIZED SCHOOL BUS ENTRY** -- NOTICE. (1) A person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if that person:

- (a) Enters a school bus with intent to commit a crime;
 - (b) Enters a school bus and disrupts or interferes with the driver; or
 - (c) Enters a school bus and refuses to disembark after being ordered to do so by the driver.
- (2) School districts shall place notices at the entrance to school buses which warn against unauthorized school bus entry.

- The parent/guardian of a student who voluntarily attends school outside of his/her attendance zone shall assume the responsibility of providing his/her student's own transportation.
- Students may only ride their assigned bus at their assigned time. Students released from school for the early bus and live within the route of the early bus must ride that bus to their designated stop. If a student misses the bus on the early load they must be picked up from school.

Rules of Student Conduct

Riding a school bus is a **privilege** and not a right. It is a privilege which each rider can keep by maintaining appropriate behavior while waiting at the bus stop, loading, riding, and unloading. Proper conduct by the students contributes greatly to the safety of the student transportation program. With this in mind, the Superintendent, Transportation Supervisor, and Board of Trustees shall develop appropriate procedures for student bus conduct.

Rules of Student Conduct

- The bus driver is in full charge of all persons riding on the bus and has the same status and authority as a teacher insofar as discipline is concerned. Students shall obey the directions of the bus driver promptly and courteously.
- Students shall board and leave the bus at their established stop, except when they have a request signed by their parent/ guardian to board or leave from another established stop. Students shall ride their assigned bus unless reassigned by the transportation supervisor.
- Students shall observe safe pedestrian practices while walking to and from the bus stop. Students shall arrive at their designated bus stop not less than five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Students shall wait in an orderly manner and shall respect private and public property while waiting at the bus stop.
- After the bus has come to a complete stop, students shall enter the bus, go directly to an available or assigned seat, and remain seated until the bus stops to unload students.
- If it is necessary for students to cross the road before boarding or after leaving the bus, the student must wait twelve (12) feet in front of the bus until an "all clear" signal is given by the driver, then cross carefully.
- Students shall talk quietly and avoid loud or distracting noises on the bus. Students shall avoid unnecessary conversations with the driver while the bus is moving. Absolute silence is required when the driver stops the bus at a railroad crossing.
- Students shall not tamper with emergency doors or equipment.
- Students must keep all parts of their body (hands, arms, feet, head, etc.) inside the bus at all times. No materials are to be thrown inside the bus, from the bus, or into the bus. Eating or drinking is not allowed on the bus except when unusual circumstances exist and prior approval is given by school transportation personnel.
- School district policies and procedures pertaining to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, and weapons are in effect at the bus stop and on the bus.
- Breakable containers, skateboards, hazardous materials, cigarette lighters, matches, shop projects, or animals, other than assistive animals, are not permitted on any school bus. **Any items carried on the bus must be small enough to be held on the lap of the student.**