

North Star Bus Guidelines

Parent Responsibilities

In order for our transportation system to run in a safe and efficient way, North Star, Brown Bus and parents must partner together to ensure this is a priority for our students every day.

Parents should be aware that the privilege to ride a school bus may be temporarily or permanently revoked if the "Bus Expectations for Students" are violated.

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 bus stop and the children reach home. Once the child enters the school bus, the responsibility lies with the bus driver, Brown Bus and the school administration.

In order to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the student transportation program, parents must also accept the responsibilities to:

1. Cooperate with the school authorities, Brown Bus and the school bus driver in promoting safe and efficient services for all passengers.
2. Insist upon good behavior on the part of their children while riding the school bus.
3. Insist that their children occupy the seats which have been assigned to them.
4. Instruct their children as to their responsibility for damages caused to the property of others, including the school bus.
5. Inform their children that they should arrive at the designated school bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the school bus.
6. Make suggestions to the school principal or to Brown Bus for improvements in the transportation program.
7. Walk with younger children to and from the school bus stop, using this opportunity to teach the children proper pedestrian practices. If the parents cannot accompany their children, arrangements should be made, if possible, for older children (brothers, sisters, or neighbors) to escort the younger children to and from the school bus stop or school.
8. Encourage their children to obey all traffic rules, signs, and signals.
9. Set an example for their children by their own safety practices.
10. Parents are not allowed to board the school bus under any circumstances.
11. K-5th grade students can only ride elementary school buses. No exceptions will be made.
12. 6th -12th grade students can only ride secondary school buses. No exceptions will be made.
13. No cell phone usage on the elementary buses.

Continued RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

If the student transportation system is to function effectively, parents must assume their obligations to the program and to the people responsible for its operation. These responsibilities include:

1. A thorough understanding of the basic safety rules for transporting their student.
2. The principles of good behavior should be developed in their student so the bus driver can concentrate on his task of driving the school bus.
3. Knowing the school bus schedule for pick-up and delivery of each student and seeing that the student is at the designated bus stop on time. It is imperative for the buses to maintain a closely regulated time schedule.
4. Supervising and teaching their student the safety habits to be followed while waiting for the school bus.
5. Recognizing that some areas, due to their physical make-up, do not lend themselves to easily walkable school bus stop locations. In the interest of safety and cost control, door-to-door delivery of children is not a possibility. North Star is a cluster busing school and students living within the transportation boundary may have to travel up to but no more than 1.5 miles to their bus stop.
6. Making requests in writing to Brown Bus or the bus driver when it is desired that their child ride other than their assigned school bus or get off at other than the designated stop.
7. Providing an emergency telephone number, as well as the home phone number, to Brown Bus and school administration so that parents can be contacted during the school day.
8. Having someone at home when the student returns. This is especially important for students with special needs. Parents of students with special needs should be at the designated bus stop to receive their student each day. Failure to do so could result in the denial of transportation privileges.
9. Not expecting or asking for special favors from the bus driver, Brown Bus or the school administration in regard to transporting your student. Policies have been made for safe transportation for all student riding the buses, and the routes should not be unnecessarily broken for the benefit of one student.