

# SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BUS SAFETY REGULATIONS



**Cliff Strickland**  
**Supervisor of Transportation**  
**80 Monrovia Avenue**  
**Smyrna, DE 19977**

**653-3142**

## **CONTRACTORS:**

B & P Transit	653-8466
Crawford Safety Bus Co, INC	222-9918
Larkin's Bus Service	653-5855
Lynwood Transportation	653-8453
M & B Bus Service, LLC	270-6934

## STUDENT CONDUCT REGULATIONS:

The regulations and information included in this pamphlet have been prepared in order to provide a safe and more efficient transportation system for your student. Students will have a safe and pleasant bus ride to school if these expectations are followed. Any act that could distract the bus driver from his/her job potentially endangers the lives of all bus passengers. Bus Conduct Report forms will be mailed to parents/guardians of students that are not following regulations properly. The bus riding privilege can be suspended for misconduct on the bus. A serious violation of these regulations may result in expulsion from the bus for the duration of the school year.

1. Students must obey the driver and be courteous to him/her, as well as fellow students. The driver is in full charge of the bus and students, with the responsibility of transporting everyone safely.
2. Students must be on time; the bus has to run on schedule and cannot wait for those who are tardy.
3. Students should never stand or play on the roadway while waiting for the bus.
4. Before boarding the bus, students must keep a safe distance from the bus while it is in motion.
5. Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others, occupying their assigned seats upon boarding.
6. Students must not get on or off the bus when it is in motion. When on the bus, students must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
7. Students are prohibited from sitting in the driver's seat. In addition, unnecessary conversation with the driver is prohibited while the bus is in motion.
8. In approaching the bus or a bus stop along the highway, a student should always walk on the left side of the road facing traffic. The student should be certain that the road is clear of all traffic or that all traffic has stopped before crossing only upon a signal given by the bus driver. Upon leaving the bus, the student should immediately walk around the front of the bus in clear view of the driver and stop before crossing. The student should make certain that the road is clear of all traffic or that all traffic has come to a complete stop before crossing only upon a signal given by the bus driver.
9. In crossing the street or highway at any time, students should look both to the right and to the left, then walk, not run.
10. Students must not call out to passerby. In addition, students should not open the bus windows without permission from the bus driver; nor extend head or arms out of the windows.
11. Students are only permitted to ride the bus to which they have been assigned and shall not leave the bus without the driver's consent, except on arrival at their regular bus stop or at school. **(A note from**

***the parent/guardian is required for any student to get on or off the bus anywhere other than their regular stop.)***

12. While being transported on the bus, students shall:

- Help to keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly. They must not damage or abuse the equipment.
- Not throw articles of any kind in, out, or around the bus.
- Not eat or drink while on the bus.
- Not use cell phones while on the bus.
- Not use profanity while on the bus and keep conversation to a normal tone.
- Not smoke while on the bus.
- Not carry any object on the bus that could be a safety hazard on the trip to or from school.
- Conduct themselves while on the bus in such a way that it will not distract the driver from his/her job of driving.

13. All Smyrna School District school's codes of conduct are in effect while using school provided transportation.

**PARENTS:**

1. Explain the Student Conduct Regulations to your student and make sure he/she understands them.
2. Get to know the bus driver. **Kindergarten students must be met by an adult at drop off.**
3. Be sure your child is at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
4. Be sure your child waits a safe distance from the roadway.
5. Encourage your child to respect private property while using the bus.
6. Explain expectations of safely riding the bus, so the driver can concentrate on driving.
7. If your student is small, be sure whatever is carried on the bus can be comfortably handled by the student.
8. If possible, signal or notify the bus driver that your student will not be riding on days when it is necessary for him/her to be absent from school.
9. When a school bus is stopped on a roadway or shoulder approximately parallel to the travel way and displays red flashing lamps... the driver of any vehicle approaching the school bus from the front or from the rear shall stop before passing the bus and remain stopped until such bus begins to move or no longer has the red stop lamps activated. On roadways with four or more lanes, the driver approaching from the front shall not stop.

## **THE BUS DRIVER:**

The bus driver is trained and tested in the safe operation of the school bus. Your cooperation will help provide the best possible service for all students on the route.

1. The driver must follow a planned time schedule.
2. The driver makes pick-ups and discharges at scheduled stops only.
3. The driver is responsible for the behavior of students while they are riding on the bus.
4. The driver must keep the bus in safe operating condition at all times.
5. The driver must keep the bus clean and comfortable at all times.
6. The driver must keep records required by the Board of Education.
7. The driver must report violations of the Student Conduct Regulations to the Transportation Supervisor.
8. The driver is in charge of the bus and Smyrna School District Codes of Conduct are in full effect.

## **SAFETY STANDARDS**

1. The Division of Motor Vehicles inspects school buses twice each year.
2. All drivers must take a special training class, a written examination, and a driving test in a school bus before obtaining the required School Bus Driver's License.
3. Drivers must have an annual eye and physical examination. A tuberculin examination is also required.
4. The Delaware State Police make spot checks for the School Bus Driver's License and for the safe conditions of the school buses.
5. All school buses must be constructed and equipped according to the Delaware Standards for School Buses established by the State Board of Education.
6. The State Board of Education and Delaware Law establish statewide uniform regulations for school bus operation.
7. Emergency evacuation drills will be held for all transported students.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR TRANSPORTATION:**

1. Students in grades K-6 who live one mile or more from school and students in grades 7-12 who live two miles or more from school are eligible.
2. For the purpose of determining a student's eligibility, measurements shall be by the most direct route provided by a public road or surfaced walkway. The distance is to be measured from the point where the drive or walkway intersects the street or road to the school building.
3. Route extensions of less than one-half mile will not be scheduled.
4. Eligibility requirements may be waived in the case of hazardous conditions, students with disabilities, or children with a certified medical reason.

### **SCHOOL CLOSINGS:**

When the schools are closed due to weather conditions or other emergencies, the Superintendent or designee will make the final decision, no later than 5:30 a.m. School closing/delay calls will be made as well as notification to WDOV, WDSO, WDEL, WILM, WQHQ/MLVW (radio) and WBOC (TV).

