

BUS RIDERSHIP

The school bus ride is an extension of the school day and should be considered as such. Driving a school bus is a difficult and challenging job. The behavior of students on school buses is a constant concern of everyone working with pupil transportation. The success of safe transportation relies on cooperation from parents and school personnel, as well as the school bus driver and the student rider. School bus transportation is a privilege and not a right. According to the Wisconsin Attorney General, transportation to and from school is a privilege which can be terminated. Students who misbehave may be denied the privilege of riding on the bus since their misbehavior jeopardizes the safety of the entire group and could result in injury to others. It is essential that open and adequate channels of communication be maintained between all involved in order to resolve concerns as they occur.



The Milton Board of Education has adopted the following rules and regulations:

Parents Responsibilities

Pupils who misbehave may be denied the privilege of riding the bus when their misbehavior jeopardizes the safety of the entire busload and could result in injury to others.

1. Please encourage your children to observe and practice all of the rules and regulations.
2. Periodically review the transportation and safety rules with your children.
3. We ask for your cooperation with school and/or bus company officials relative to pupil safety violations or conduct reports. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the Terminal Manager concerning any transportation problems or situations.
4. If a building principal refuses transportation for a student because of disciplinary reasons, the parents are to be contacted immediately and a conference arranged with the parents and the student. Students may not be allowed to ride the bus until the parents attend the conference with the student, the principal, the bus driver, and the Terminal Manager.
5. Parents will be notified prior to withdrawal of such a privilege by the school principal.
6. Students will ride on assigned buses only. Students will not be permitted to leave or board the bus at any place other than their designated stop or school unless a note signed by the parent is approved by the building principal, or his/her designee, and a phone call is made to the terminal manager/supervisor and a note presented to the bus driver.
7. Parents must notify their child's school office, in advance, by note or by a phone call when making changes in a child's transportation arrangements for dismissal times. For safety reasons, we cannot allow changes requested by anyone other than the child's parent/guardian.
8. All parents are asked to please observe school property, traffic, and road regulations. Do not park or stop in the bus loading/unloading areas. These areas are clearly posted.
9. Items students may NOT bring on the bus include: no item that can be considered a weapon as per Board Policy JICI; nor any item that cannot be stored in a backpack or duffel bag; nor food or beverages other than snack lunches to be consumed at school and not on the bus.
10. Parents with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Terminal Manager instead of stopping the bus while on route

Bus Rider Responsibilities

Students riding on a school bus are expected to behave in a manner that does not distract the driver nor interfere with a safe operating schedule.

Before Loading (On the road or at school):

1. Students are to be at the designated bus stop 10 minutes before the bus arrives. This is imperative in order to keep the buses on schedule. Parents are asked to notify the bus company, Go Riteway Transportation, at 1-(608)-868-4705 if their child(ren) will not be riding the bus.
2. Stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus.
3. For safety reasons, students are asked to stay 10—15 feet off the edge of the roadway until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus door opens. A push by the last person in line could send the first person under the wheels of the bus.
4. Students who must cross the road to board the bus are to wait on their own side of the road for a signal from the driver to cross over to the bus. The crossing line is to be made 10 feet in front of the bus.
5. Unless a student needs to change buses, the student may NOT get off the bus until the bus reaches its final designation.

While on the Bus:

1. Bus drivers have the same responsibility as classroom teachers. They are to refer any serious discipline problems to the building principal.
2. Bus riders should be polite to fellow riders and to the driver. Misbehavior will NOT be permitted around or on the bus. Foul language and swearing will not be allowed.
3. Remember that loud talking and loud laughter or horseplay takes the driver's attention away from the road and may result in an accident.
4. Bus riders are NOT permitted to leave their seats while the bus is in motion. Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times after entering the bus. Do not throw anything out of the bus windows.
5. Keep hands and feet off the other bus riders and their property AT ALL TIMES.
6. Consumption of food and/or beverages on the buses is NOT PERMITTED. Help keep the bus clean at all times.
7. Bus riders should NEVER tamper with the bus or any of its equipment. Treat the bus as you would treat your own possessions. Do not pound on the windows or the body of the bus with anything. Damage to seats, windows, etc., must be paid for by the offender.
8. The bus aisles must always be clear and unblocked. Band instruments, books, packages, coats, and other objects must be kept out of the aisles. Please hold lunch boxes, jackets, and other items in your lap so all three seatmates have their fair share of room. Radios/iPods and any similar music makers are ONLY allowed if used with headphones and are not disruptive. Extra large band instruments or school projects which will not fit within the seat area, will not be allowed on the bus.
9. Absolute quiet is necessary when the bus is stopped at a railroad crossing. It is very important that the driver be able to hear approaching trains.
10. In case of a road emergency, students are to remain on the bus unless instructed otherwise by the driver or students trained in evacuation procedures.
11. The bus driver shall NOT smoke or allow smoking at any time * Federal Law prohibits use of tobacco products

while on a school bus.

12. Students who drive their own vehicles to school, and/or parents who drive their child(ren) to school, are reminded that Wisconsin state law requires all vehicles, including bicycles and motorcycles, to stop NO CLOSER than 20 feet to a stopped school bus with its flashing red lights and its stop arm extended.

13. Bus riders will ride in their assigned seats.

14. Students are not allowed to use cameras or cell phone cameras while riding on the bus. Cell phone ringtones must be kept at a low level or turned off while on the school bus.



After Leaving the Bus

If it is necessary for a student to cross the road, do so at least 10 feet in front of the bus. Look both ways and wait for the bus driver to signal that you may safely cross the road.

Extracurricular Trips

1. The above same rules and regulations apply to ANY trip under school sponsorship.
2. Any competent chaperone appointed by the school is carrying out the orders of the principals.
3. While on extracurricular trips, chaperones will ride evenly distributed among the students.
4. In compliance with state regulations, no items are to be placed in the aisle of the bus. In the event of an emergency, this would seriously jeopardize the safety of the passengers.

Bus Rider Rules and Responsibilities during the extracurricular trips

- Plan to be at your pickup point a few minutes before the bus arrives.
 - No horseplay. loud noise or foul language will be allowed.
 - Students will ride in assigned seats.
 - No standing or walking on the bus while it is moving.
 - No eating or drinking on the bus.
 - Do not extend any part of your body or any object out the windows.
 - Do not throw anything out the windows.
 - Absolute quiet is necessary at railroad crossings.
 - No smoking or tobacco products are allowed on the bus.
 - Keep the bus aisle clear at all times.
 - Students are not allowed to use cameras or cell phone cameras while riding on the bus.
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Rule Violations

Minor Violations

Minor violations of safety rules and misconduct will result in verbal warnings from the driver. If behavior does not

change, a conduct report will be sent to the school. Parents will be notified. Three (3) conduct reports on minor violations and misconduct in a school year may result in the suspension of riding privileges for up to three (3) days.

Major and/or Repeated Violations

Major and/or repeated violations of safety procedures, destruction of property, and serious student misconduct will warrant a conduct report sent to the school. A consultation will be held between the school officials and Riteway to determine appropriate disciplinary actions, which may include an extended suspension of riding privileges. (Go Riteway Transportation Group: 1-608-868-4705).

The School District of Milton approves the use of video cameras on school buses for the primary purpose of reducing disciplinary problems and vandalism on the buses. This will allow the driver to focus on driving the bus and providing safe transportation of our students. A sign will be placed at the front of the bus indicating the video/audio recordings may be present for security purposes, but that the equipment may or may not be monitored at any time.

