

JOPLIN SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

Authority and control of student groups transported in school buses is vested in the school bus drivers. They are appointed members of the school staff and have the same authority and responsibility for the safety and conduct of the pupils on the bus as is vested in the classroom teacher.

Parents should inspect and discourage clothing, book bags, back packs, or any other article worn or carried by students that is loose or contains hanging drawstrings, belts, or straps. These can accidentally become caught in the bus handrail or door while students are exiting the bus and create the possibility of the student being dragged by the bus after exiting.

- 1. The driver is in charge of the students and the bus. Students are expected to obey the driver promptly.** Drivers have a tremendous responsibility and must have the cooperation of students and parents.
2. Students must be at the bus before the bus arrives. The bus **will not** wait for students who are tardy.
3. While waiting for the bus, students are to stand a safe distance from the roadway until the bus has arrived. The same rules of behavior apply at bus stops as they do while on the bus or at school.
4. Students must observe and obey directions of the driver during loading and unloading. When necessary to cross the roadway, children must cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus and at the signal of the bus driver.
5. When boarding a bus students should be seated promptly in their **assigned seat**. Aisles should always remain clear of hands and feet. Moving about while the bus is in motion is prohibited.
6. Bus aisles must be kept clear at all times. Any article, (musical instrument, athletic equipment, school projects, etc.) that necessitates placement in the aisle, cannot be brought onto the bus.
7. Unnecessary conversation with the driver is prohibited.
- 8. Only authorized students and school personnel are allowed on the bus at any time.** All others, including parents, are not allowed on the bus at any time.
9. A bus pass is required in order for a student to ride a bus other than the one to which he/she is assigned. A bus pass is required if a student is to be allowed to get off at a stop other than the one they normally go home to. A bus pass is obtained by presenting to the building secretary a signed note from the parent/guardian stating the changes required. The pass is issued by the office and must be presented to the bus driver upon boarding. Without the bus pass the student will be transported as normal.
10. Parents or guardians of kindergarten and first grade students must meet their student at the bus door and ask for their student by name. Siblings that are fourth grade or older may accompany kindergartners and first graders home instead of a parent or guardian.
11. As a general rule, eating or drinking on the bus is not allowed.
12. Students will be expected to do their share in keeping the bus clean and free of paper, trash, etc. Wastebaskets are provided for each bus.
13. Students must not at anytime extend head or arms out of the bus windows, or throw any item out of the bus.
14. Nuisance items such as water guns, rubber bands, paper wads, skate boards, and other toys are not allowed on buses.
15. No animals, reptiles, bugs, or pets are to be allowed on the bus.
16. Students who have been suspended from riding a bus cannot ride any other bus while the suspension is in effect.

17. No fighting will be allowed on the bus or while waiting for the bus. Students are to keep their hands to themselves and respect the rights of others to be left alone.
18. Students will not be allowed to use vulgar or crude language or make any gestures that are obscene or suggestive.
19. No weapons of any kind will be allowed on the bus. This includes knives, guns, martial arts equipment, or anything else brought on the bus with the intent of creating injury or bodily harm. Throwing any item at another student or driver is prohibited.
20. Threats, either verbal or implied, are prohibited on the bus or at bus loading zones.
21. Use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco in any form is prohibited either on the bus or at bus stops.
22. Sexual harassment of any kind is strictly prohibited on school buses or loading areas. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature between students or between students and school employees.
23. Any damage to the bus must be paid for by the student responsible for the damage or their parents. The student will not be allowed to ride the bus until the fee is paid in full.
24. The presence on the school buses, or loading and unloading areas, of any apparel, jewelry, notebook, accessories, symbols, graffiti, gestures, or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute denotes membership in gangs or exhibits behaviors that interfere with the normal and orderly operation of the school is prohibited.
25. Students who refuse to conform to the above listed regulations and the Joplin School's Student Discipline Code will be subject to the denial of transportation.

Please read and share with your student/s, signifying all are aware and will follow the Joplin Schools Transportation Regulations. Return your signed copy to the bus driver by August 25th.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____