

# Bus Safety for Students

The District 196 Transportation Department is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful environment while transporting all students to and from school. All students are expected to show respect toward the bus driver, fellow students and their property. Harrassment in any form will not be tolerated. Every student, public, nonpublic and charter, regardless of age, is responsible for following the rules in the *Overview Student Rights and Resposibilities* handbook and the rules outlined in this brochure.

## Getting to the bus stop safely

**When going to the bus stop, students are expected to:**

- Use the sidewalk where one is provided, or
- Walk on the left shoulder of the street or roadway facing traffic, single file or no more than two abreast when there are no sidewalks.

## Safety at the bus stop

**At the bus stop, students are expected to:**

- Arrive five minutes before their scheduled pick-up time;
- Be cooperative and respectful of property (parents are responsible for their child's behavior at the bus stop);
- Stay a safe distance back from the curb and wait for the bus to come to a complete stop, and
- Never accept rides from strangers, even though the student may have missed the bus.

## Boarding the bus safely

**When boarding the bus, students are expected to:**

- Remain on the side of the street they reside on; if students must cross the street, they should walk 10 steps in front of the bus;
- Stop, look at the bus driver, and wait until the driver gives a hand signal to cross; then look left, right and left again before crossing the street;
- Walk quickly across the street, without stopping, turning back or running, and
- Enter in an orderly manner using the handrails; no pushing, shoving or crowding.



## **Safe behavior on the bus**

### **While on the bus, students are expected to:**

- Take a seat promptly, remain seated and avoid moving around while the bus is in motion;
- Once students board the bus, they must remain on the bus until they have reached their school or designated stop;
- Follow the instructions of the driver and/or chaperone promptly and respectfully;
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself; no pushing, shoving or horseplay;
- Not put their head, arms, feet or any object out of the window;
- Observe the rule of not having windows open more than 6" (only open the window to the black indicator line painted on the inside pillars between each window);
- Respect the vehicle (students will be charged for damage/vandalism to the bus);
- Hold large items or musical instruments (up to 39") on their laps or in seat area, but not in the aisle;
- Not handle any of the bus safety equipment, unless directed by driver (first aid kit, reflectorized triangles and the emergency door are for emergency use only);
- Not bring weapons, flammable materials or any other dangerous or objectionable items on the bus;
- Not fight, use abusive language/gestures, light incendiary devices or use tobacco products;
- Not throw, flip or propel objects on the bus, and
- Not eat, drink or bring animals on the bus.

## **Leaving the bus safely**

### **When leaving the bus, students are expected to:**

- Remain seated until the bus has completely stopped and then exit without pushing or crowding;
- Use the handrail when leaving the bus, and
- Move away from the bus after stepping onto the curb.
- If students must cross the street, they should walk 10 steps ahead of the bus. Stop, look at the bus driver and wait until the driver gives a hand signal to cross; then look left, right and left again before proceeding. Walk quickly across the street, without stopping, turning back or running.

## **Bus Stop Request Process**

Please read through all of the provided information before making a route change request. If you feel you have a request that is not answered in the *Questions and Concerns* section, submit your request in writing to: Independent School District 196 Transportation Department, 15180 Canada Avenue, Rosemount, MN 55068, or you may submit your request electronically at [www.district196.org](http://www.district196.org) and click on About District 196/District Department/Transportation/General Busing information, Questions and Concerns/Bus Stop Request form. After your request is reviewed, you will be notified by the Transportation Department of the decision.