

**STUDENTS****Responsibility for Student Behavior on School Buses**

Michigan School Law places with the board of education the responsibility for adopting and enforcing reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct and deportment of students attending the public schools, including the time spent in coming to and returning from school.

Administration of rules and regulations concerning student behavior shall be the function of the professional staff of the school district.

Infractions of rules or improper conduct by students while in the presence of driver employees shall be reported immediately to the proper authority for action. Only when the behavior of students is such as to demand immediate action, in the interest of safety to others, shall the driver employee be empowered to act in accordance with the district's disciplinary code.

Legal Reference: The Pupil Transportation Act (PA 187) of 1990.  
See Also: Board Policy 3541: Transportation

Policy  
Adopted: 09-08-75  
Amended: 04-16-07  
Reviewed:

Students eligible for transportation must reside in excess of 1.5 miles from the high school or middle school and in excess of 1 mile from the elementary school they attend. Students and parents are expected to adhere to the following rules and regulations, which are the result of careful study and long-term experience.

1. Students should expect to walk some distance to their designated bus stop.
2. Students are expected to be visible at the scheduled bus stop five minutes before the scheduled stop time and quietly remain ten steps back from the designated stop.
  - 2.1 Students must cross in front of a bus when crossing a road. **DO NOT CROSS IN BACK OF A BUS.**
  - 2.2 Students must wait to load until the bus door is completely open and the driver signals. Students shall not push one another to load the bus.
  - 2.3 Respect property owners' property at bus stop locations.
3. The driver is in charge. Students are expected to cooperate and follow the driver's direction.
  - 3.1 Students must remain in their seats and in a sitting position when the bus is in motion.
  - 3.2 Students must wait until a bus has come to a complete stop before attempting to get on or off the bus. Students leave a bus only at the consent of the driver.
  - 3.3 Students must occupy any seat assigned by the driver and must keep feet out of the aisles, off seats, and off the backs of seats.
  - 3.4 Students must sit upright and keep head, arms, and hands inside the bus.
  - 3.5 Students should observe classroom conduct and avoid unnecessary disturbing noises. The Bus driver should not be distracted while the bus is in motion.
4. Students should be courteous!
  - 4.1 Profanity, vulgar language, fighting, teasing, pushing and shoving will not be tolerated.
  - 4.2 Respect each other's personal property at bus stop locations and while on the school bus.

5. Help keep the bus clean and safe.
  - 5.1 Eating, drinking, smoking or the possession or use of controlled substances is not permitted on the bus.
  - 5.2 Animals (service animals that are included in a student's Individual Education Plan), weapons, golf clubs, scooters, skateboards, sleds, glass containers, etc. are not permitted on the bus.
  - 5.3 Report to the driver any observed damage to the bus. Any malicious damage to a school bus will be paid for by the person responsible for the damage.
  - 5.4 Items that are too large for the student to hold on his or her lap will not be permitted on the bus.

In addition, the bus driver employees of the Okemos Public Schools are required to follow Michigan School Bus Law when operating a school bus. All citizens must also adhere to the Michigan School Bus Law. The Okemos school buses use the amber and red (8) light system, which includes a stop sign arm. Prior to stopping, the driver will activate the amber flashing lights (located on top portion of bus) not less than 20 feet before the stop. Opening the bus door to receive or discharge students automatically deactivates the amber flashing lights and activates the alternating flashing red lights and the stop sign arm.

**Michigan Law on Stopping for School Buses:**

1. PREPARE TO STOP when overhead lights are flashing yellow.
2. STOP when overhead lights are flashing red. STOP no closer than 20 feet of the bus.
3. PROCEED WITH CAUTION when hazard warning lights are flashing.