

What Items can be Transported?

The New York State Department of Transportation Regulations limit the carrying of items on school buses to those that can be carried in the hands or on the lap of the student, or secured under the seats so as not to interfere with passenger seating space, safety or comfort.

Students are not allowed to eat on the bus.

Musical instruments of questionable size for any student to hold on their lap are: bassoons, tenor saxophones, trombones, French horns, baritone horns, bass clarinets.

Acceptable Items: Books, small back packs, small book bags, lunch boxes.

Not Allowed on the school bus: **No:** animals, birds, fish, hockey sticks, inflated balloons, glass containers, skate boards, sharp items such as umbrellas with sharp points, large projects, suit-cases, etc.

Medications cannot be transported on the school bus.

Any item that, in the opinion of the Supervisor of Transportation, is a safety hazard will not be allowed on the school bus. Although bus safety rules might seem to offer little latitude, the rules are there to protect all of our students.



It is against the law to pass a stopped school bus (from either direction) when the red lights are flashing!



John Jay & Ketcham students must have bus passes to ride the late bus. Students without a Late Bus Pass will not be allowed to ride per New York State Education Department's requirement for student accountability.

Wappingers Central School District Transportation Supervisor

KIM CATALANO

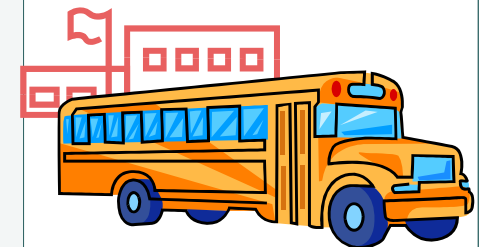
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What Parents Should Know About the School Bus



www.wappingersschools.org

Who is Eligible for Transportation?

Eligibility for transportation is based in accordance with New York State Education Law, solely upon the distance from a student's legal residence to the school he or she legally attends or his/her special needs.

Transportation is provided for all school aged students who reside in our district to schools in their respective attendance zones. Students attending private or parochial schools are eligible to receive transportation services if they are within 15 miles of the students address. Prior to selecting a private or parochial school parents are advised to contact the transportation department for an accurate mileage audit. **Requests for private or parochial school transportation must be filed no later than April 1st each year for the next school year.**

Students attending Kindergarten must be five years of age prior to December 1st of this year.

ONLY students who reside in our district are eligible for transportation.

Information regarding the McKinney-Vento Act intended to assist students whom are considered homeless, can be obtained through the office of the Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services.

Bus Stop Locations

Bus Stop locations are created in accordance with NYS laws and regulations to promote safety and efficiency, and are created as group or "neighborhood" stops whenever possible. Students are to be at their assigned stop, visible from the roadway, ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled pick-up time. Parents are responsible for the students to and from the bus stop.

Be advised that NYS Law does NOT require that children of divorced parents be transported to different homes on different days of the week. Parents are required to designate ONE address for transportation.

Proper Bus Behavior

Riding the bus is a privilege and may be withdrawn if the student does not comply with the rules set forth in the district code of conduct. Students are under the authority of the driver of the bus. In the event of improper behavior, students will be issued a warning. Drivers are authorized to safely pull the bus to the side of the road to speak with students if warranted. Drivers are authorized to assign seats and ask students to move to another seat. A written conduct referral will be filed with the child's principal for administrative action if improper behavior continues.

Be advised that buses may be equipped with on-board surveillance systems that monitor student behavior and conversation.

For Your Information WCSD BOE Policy Section 5000 # 5312 Student Conduct cites the following:

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. **Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior.** Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.

Safe Crossing

Bus Drivers will teach safe crossing procedures to students who must cross the street. *Please reinforce the following:*

1. Students are to walk ten feet in front of the bus so they can see the bus driver clearly.
2. Bus Driver will motion by hand movement when it is clear to cross.

3. Student is not to move until the driver indicates they may do so.
4. Student then walks across the street, looking in both directions, making sure there are no vehicles and all is clear to cross.

Parents who wish to meet their child at the bus stop are requested to meet them on the side of the road that their child is released. If children have to cross, parents are requested to cross with them using the safe crossing procedures.

Alternate Drop-off/Child Care

The district will provide transportation to or from a location other than a child's legal residence on a daily or permanent basis. *The following apply:*

1. The student must be eligible for transportation.
2. Childcare Request Forms must be received by April 1st of preceding school year for transportation **WITHIN** the district to a NYS licensed and registered daycare facility.
3. The stop must be on an existing bus route within the child's individual school attendance zone if request is made after April 1st.
4. Space must be available on the bus.
5. Alternate stop must be for five (5) days a week in and/or out. Otherwise a **daily note** to school is required.
6. For your child's safety, the bus driver, teacher, school and Transportation Department need to know your child's proper bus and bus stop. For this reason, all alternate transportation requests for the start of the school year must be submitted by August 15th. Requests made after this date will be processed after September 30th.

Child Care Request Forms can be obtained at your child's home school. **You must return completed forms to the School for Approval.**