

BARBERTON

CITY SCHOOLS BUS RIDER HANDBOOK

POLICIES □ PROCEDURES □ GUIDELINES



**Transportation Office:
330-753-1025 EXT 13141**



BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

- * Each year instruction is given in the K through 3rd grades within the first two weeks of school on bus safety and behavior.
- * Drivers are provided CPR and emergency first aid training.
- * All buses are equipped with fire extinguishers, first aid kits, road flares and markers. Additionally, every bus is equipped with a two-way radio.
- * Annually, drivers participate in an in-service training on topics related to safety. Drivers conduct daily pre-trip bus inspections.
- * All buses are inspected annually by the State Highway Patrol. Spot safety checks are conducted periodically during the year.
- * Emergency evacuations drills are conducted each school year.

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

BOARD OF EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. The Board of Education shall at all times maintain general supervision and control over the transportation program. The Board shall delegate the actual responsibility for direct control to the person designated by the Superintendent and the Board of Education to be responsible for transportation.
2. The bus drivers shall be approved by the BOE, section 3327.10, 4501.01 revised codes.
3. Buses used for pupil transportation shall meet all Ohio State standards for school buses.
4. Barberton students living in Barberton are transported according to Board Policies
5. Special and different walk limits shall be set for students within a one-mile limit if terrain, age of student, traffic, walk-space, weather, or students health have bearing on his or her safety.
6. Students with physical handicaps that make walking difficult or dangerous, living any distance from school are entitled to transportation as per regulations for handicapped children.
7. Buses must follow the Board Approved assigned route.
8. Bus stops shall be limited, where possible, so that students from several homes can meet at a central point safely for group pick up. Elementary aged students may have less distance to walk, whereas, middle and high school aged students may walk greater distance.

SCHEDULES AND ROUTES

- * The bus routes have been designed to promote the safest and most efficient transportation to and from school.
- * Students are required to board and get off at their assigned stops. In addition, students are required to be at their bus stop at least ten (10) minutes early. These requirements are necessary for the safety of the students and the need to get students to and from school in a timely manner.
- * Pupils are to ride only the buses to which they have been assigned.

RIDING THE BUS

No student is permitted to stand while riding a school bus. Since there may be three students to a seat, it is important to share the space. Drivers are authorized to assign seats. Please do not move from your seat unless instructed to do so.

LOADING:

Wait for your bus at your **designated place of safety** (O.A.C. 3301-83-13) out of the roadway. You should line up single file and board the bus in an orderly manner, going immediately to your seat so that the bus will not be delayed and others may board. Please do not stand or kneel on seats or sit on seat backs as you could be injured if the bus stops suddenly and it damages the cushions.

UNLOADING:

When arriving at school, remain seated until instructed by your driver to move. After exiting the bus, go to your **designated place of safety**. (O.A.C. 3301-83-13)

CROSSING THE ROADWAY:

When it is necessary to cross the street before getting on, or after getting off the bus, you must cross at least ten (10) feet from the front of the bus. Always wait for the bus driver's signal to cross the street or road, as the bus driver is in a position to see traffic from both directions. Before moving into traffic lane, check traffic in both directions. Remember, if your driver sounds the horn it means **DANGER!** Always go to your **designated place of safety** (O.A.C. 3301-83-13) and wait there until bus departs.

DANGER ZONES



AUTHORITY OF DRIVERS

While being transported on a Barberton City School bus, the students are under the authority of the bus driver who is responsible for the orderly conduct and safety of all riders. Your driver has the authority to enforce all of the rules and regulations as described.

CONDUCT ON THE BUS

- ▶ Reminder that riding the bus is a PRIVILEGE granted to you. The bus is viewed as an extension of the classroom and conduct should be similar.
- ▶ Profanity or obscene language will not be tolerated on the bus. Use of such language will be considered serious enough misconduct to have your riding privileges suspended.
- ▶ Eating, drinking, lighting matches, smoking, spitting or littering on the bus floor with any material is not permitted.
- ▶ Windows may be opened with permission from your driver. Do not extend any part of your body or any other objects out of a bus window at any time. Close your windows as instructed by your driver. Throwing any object from a motor vehicle is prohibited by law.
- ▶ Any conduct that distracts the attention of the driver or that endangers lives cannot be tolerated. Examples of this conduct are bullying, standing, moving seats with out permission, throwing objects, wrestling, scuffling, fighting, grabbing clothing, books, or other objects and passing them around the bus.
- ▶ Absolute quiet must be observed while stopped at, and crossing all railroad tracks.
- ▶ Continued or serious misconduct, or refusal to obey a driver shall be sufficient reason for refusing transportation services to any student. Parents of students doing damage to a school bus may be billed for repair costs.

FORBIDDEN CARGO

- ▶ The transportation or carrying of firearms or any other weapons or explosives on a school bus is prohibited by law. There is **ZERO** tolerance for joking about weapons.
- ▶ The transportation of pets, animals, or any other living creature is also prohibited by law.
- ▶ Sharp or pointed items, pens, pencils, compasses, etc., should be carried in a closed container.
- ▶ No glass containers, bottles, balloons, aerosol containers or fragile items may be carried on the bus. (Lunch and thermos bottles are acceptable).
- ▶ Personal headphone radios are allowed if permitted in your school. They must be played as to not disturb others.
- ▶ The use of cell phones is not permitted, unless granted by the Bus Driver.
- ▶ Picture taking by the cell phone is forbidden.
- ▶ Pupils may carry on the bus only objects that can be held in their laps – i.e., musical instruments, projects or packages. Please arrange other means of transportation if you must bring any large, fragile, or forbidden cargo to school.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES ARE

1. To insure that your child arrives at the correct bus stop 10 minutes before bus time.
2. To provide necessary protection for your child when going to and from the bus stop.
3. To accept joint responsibility with school authorities for proper conduct of your child while riding the bus and at the bus stop.
4. To be sure that your child is properly dressed for the weather.
5. To make a reasonable effort to understand and cooperate with those responsible for student transportation.
6. To explain to your child that a bus may take a different route on occasion than what he or she is use to and not to be upset. They will arrive at their bus stop or school.
7. Parent of a Kindergarten or Head Start must be at the stop otherwise the child will be taken back to their school or bus garage. Authority will be called.

Remember, if you must cross in front of your bus:

1. STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN.
2. Take 10 Giant Steps in front of the bus.
3. Make eye contact – you can see your driver and your driver can see you.
4. Wait for the driver to signal when it's safe to cross.

5. Go to your designated safety spot and stay there until the driver leaves the area.



I PLEDGE TO BE A SAFE RIDER.



STUDENT CONTRACT

I will obey the Bus Driver.

I will obey bus rules.

I will sit properly in my assigned seat.

I will not stand until the driver says.

I will stay at my Designated Place of Safety.

I understand riding the bus is a privilege.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this sheet signed to your bus driver.