

Transportation Safety Procedures

Please review these procedures with your student. Quabbin has a two-tiered system utilizing the same buses for MS/HS and Elementary routes. This requires all students to follow the procedures carefully so that our buses are on-time for all students in the district.

Boarding the Bus

- Students should be at the assigned bus stop (not inside their home) 5-10 minutes before their scheduled stop
- Students that are required to cross a street should wait for bus driver signal to cross
- Students should step on bus quickly and be seated at once
- No unauthorized adults are allowed on buses
- Students in Grades K - 2 must be accompanied by an older sibling or authorized adult until bus arrives

Riding the Bus

- Students may not distract the driver or block the driver's view.
- There is no consumption of food or drink allowed on the bus
- Students are required to remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Students must keep voice volume at a reasonable level. Students must wear headphones if listening to music or videos.
- The driver reserves the right to assign seats to students at any given time and for any reason. Failure to comply with such a request may result in suspension of the student's bus privileges indefinitely.

Departing the Bus

- Students in grades K - 2 are required to have an older sibling or authorized adult to greet them.
 - If the adult/sibling is not present the student will be brought back to their respective school and parent/guardian will be called to pick up the student.
 - Please remind your young children not to get off the bus unless they recognize whomever is scheduled to meet them.
- Students required to cross in front of the bus must wait for the approval/signal from the driver that it's safe to cross.

Alternative Pick up or Drop off Locations

- Students that need to make exceptions routinely to their stops (Day Care, Dance Studio, etc.) need to update the information **EACH** school year. Fill out form [HERE](#)
- Students that reside in two homes due to split custody must update the form **EACH** school year, as well as if any additional changes are made throughout the school year. Fill out form [HERE](#)
- Students looking to make a ONE-DAY exception to their drop off may do so at the school office with written permission from the parent/guardian.
 - One day passes are **only permitted if there is room on the bus.** (Transportation Coordinator informs school office of availability on buses)
 - Drop off location must be an existing stop along the route.
 - Requests made directly to the bus driver will not be honored
 - One day passes for School Choice buses are **NOT** permitted at any time.

Lost & Found

- Items found on the bus will be held by the bus driver for up to two days to try to reunite with the owner. Please try to ask the driver directly for any lost items.

Disciplinary Policies

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents/guardians of students whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their students face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with regulations approved by the Quabbin Regional School Committee

Infractions

- Infractions include, but are not limited to
 - Refusal to stay in seat, climbing over seats
 - Yelling and shouting on the bus and/or out the window
 - Failing to obey reasonable requests of driver
 - Bullying other children, pushing or shoving, harassment of other students
 - Possessing sharp objects
 - Throwing objects out the window and/or littering on the bus
 - Eating or drinking on the bus
 - Defacing or damaging the bus and/or other students belongings

Report of Bus Misconduct

- Bus drivers will provide a form with record of infractions. A copy will be given to the School Administrator and the Bus Contractor (JP McCarthy)

- It is at the discretion of the School Administration to notify the parent/guardian of reported infractions and determine if a meeting is necessary.

DESE Transportation Policy (excerpt)

All children residing in regional school districts in grades kindergarten through twelve where the nearest school bus stop is more than one mile from their residence is eligible for transportation. Exceptions to this policy may be made when road conditions do not provide for the physical safety of the children and when the health of students make this service essential.

Full Policy: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/transportation/guide.html?section=policy>