

SAFETY

Parents play a key role in promoting safety with their children at home, at play and at school. This is particularly true of younger children. Parents can encourage school bus safety in the following ways:

- Review and discuss the bus riding rules with your children, particularly the responsibilities of the students.
- Provide extra help and guidance during the first several weeks of school, especially for students in grades K-3. Your children must have a good understanding of the location of their bus stop; their point of safety; acceptable behavior at the bus stop, as well as on board; what to do when the bus is late or does not come.
- By law, students must stand at their point of safety (assigned by the driver) until signaled to board the bus. Upon leaving the bus, they must go to their resident-side point of safety and stay there until the bus pulls away. Reinforce this procedure with your children.
- Remind your children that it is important to wait for the bus driver's hand signal when crossing to and from the bus. State law requires the drivers of other vehicles to stop for bus stop signs. However, drivers are sometimes negligent and do not stop when they should. Encourage your children to "Stop, Look and Listen" before they cross.
- Light clothing and/or reflective tape on clothes and book bags make your children easily visible. Remove hanging strings from clothing or book bags.
- Establish an alternative plan of action for your children to follow if the bus does not come for them or if you are not available when they arrive home.
- Report any obvious safety problems or significant concerns to the Transportation Supervisor. Please give specific details, i.e. bus number, date, time, etc.

GENERAL BUS SERVICE INFORMATION

- Students should be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the normal pick up time.
- Parents are responsible for their students until they board the school bus.
- Students may get on and off the bus only at their assigned bus stop.
- All items brought onto the bus must fit comfortably on your student's lap. Pets are never permitted on the bus.
- Parents will be held responsible for willful damage to school buses caused by their children.

- If you have a concern or dispute with a bus driver, please refrain from discussing it with the driver while he/she is driving the route. Call the transportation office and talk to the supervisor. Parents may never board a bus or stand on the bus steps.

Some dangerous situations our drivers have experienced:

A vehicle pulls up to a bus stop and a late child runs from behind or on the side of the bus. The driver can not see them and begins to pull away.

A child has missed the bus. The parent pulls up behind the bus at another stop and or at a traffic light and sends the child out of the car to the bus. Again, the driver does not see the child running along the side of the bus and pulls away.

A parent keeps the child in a car and sends them out as the bus approaches, putting the child into the danger zone of the bus, instead of at their point of safety.

A parent pulls up to the bus at a stop and sends the child to retrieve something left on the bus. The driver does not expect someone to run along the side of the bus and pulls away.

An angry parent attempts to board the bus while arguing with the driver. This frightens some children on the bus and holds up traffic. The drivers in the waiting cars get impatient and go around the bus.

A parent causes a near accident by blocking buses at the school loading areas or cutting them off while pulling around them.

A parent wants to remove children from the bus after they have boarded. State law concerning custodial parents requires the approval of a school official in order for students to be released from the bus anywhere other than their assigned stop. Our drivers may be unaware of custody issues involving our students.



The goal of the Finneytown Local School District Transportation Department is to provide safe transportation for your children. Parents, school officials and bus drivers can help achieve this goal by working together to follow the safety rules. We appreciate the support you give us. We are looking forward to another safe year.