

Riding a bus to and from school in the Haywood County School System is a privilege not to be taken lightly. All students must understand and observe good conduct, courtesy, cooperation, and respect for the authority of the bus driver. The bus driver and/or monitor's main responsibility is to safely transport our students from home to school and school to home. Please keep in mind that we will try to accommodate you during special situations when possible, but deviations from the routes, stops, and regular pick up points creates safety and time issues.

The following bus conduct rules are in force anytime a student is riding one of our buses. Please go over these rules with your bus rider(s).

1. For each child's safety, no one can board a bus except students assigned to that bus, school personnel, and/or law enforcement.
2. Transportation is only provided to and from the child's home address that is listed on the student information sheet provided by you and signed by the school administrator.
3. Be at bus stop on time. On time is 10 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time. It is the parent's responsibility to supervise the child/children at the bus stop in the morning and afternoon.
4. Stay 10 feet away from the bus at all times except for entering or exiting. Never reach or crawl under any part of the bus. Tell the driver if any items go under the bus.
5. **DO NOT** cross the road until the driver signals that it is safe to do so. When exiting, students should never walk behind the bus. Students should be careful when approaching the bus stop and should walk on the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.
6. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to get on board. Before you exit the bus, **remain seated until the bus comes to complete stop** and the doors open on the bus.
7. Children will have assigned seats at all times.
8. Children must observe the same behavior on the bus as they do in the classroom.
9. **While children are being transported, they must remain seated and facing forward. Within reason, hands, arms, legs and feet must remain within and behind the seat at all times.**
10. **Children must be silent when the bus is backing up, when the bus is going over railroad tracks, during an emergency, severe weather, bus evacuations, bus accident, bus breakdown, or when told to by the driver.**
11. Don't touch the emergency door, exit controls, or any other safety equipment on the bus unless directed to do so by the bus driver or assistant.
12. Do not throw anything within or out of the bus windows at any time.
13. Fighting, pushing, tripping, kicking, bullying or harassment etc. will not be tolerated on the bus.
14. **No loud or inappropriate speech, swearing or shouting in the bus or out the windows will be allowed. Rude and abusive language will not be tolerated. Always use inside voices and keep voice levels within reasonable limits.**
15. All carry-ons, including backpacks, musical instruments and school projects, must be able to fit in the child's lap. The parent/guardian must transport any items that don't meet these criteria.

16. All cell-phones, electronic devices and toys (including Pokémon & playing cards) must be kept in backpacks at all times. Items may be taken by the driver if they are found outside of a child's book bag while on the bus and returned to the student at the end of the bus route.

17. Backpacks should remain closed while children are being transported. Pencils and all school supplies should remain in backpacks at all times. Children may read books but homework must be done at home.

18. Glass or other breakable items, flower arrangements, and balloons/balloon bouquets are prohibited.

19. Weapons, laser pointers, explosive devices, harmful drugs, or chemicals are prohibited on the bus.

20. Live insects, reptiles, or other animals are prohibited from the bus.

21. Food, drinks, chewing gum, tobacco (any form), and alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the bus.

22. No perfumes, colognes, lotions, fingernail polish or irritants shall be permitted on bus.

23. Regarding kindergarten students, anyone picking up a child at bus stop, other than the parent/guardian, must show identification and must also be listed on the registration card at the child's school.

24. Parents/guardians of kindergarten children and/or children riding a special education bus due to their IEP, must be waiting at the BUS STOP in the afternoon. If no parent/guardian is clearly visible, the child will be taken back to school.

25. According to Board Policy, no child will be allowed to ride home with another child without written permission from the parent, which must be given to office personnel before 10:00 am that day. (If the request is for a child who doesn't typically ride the bus, the parent must complete a Student Information for Transportation form, which is located in the school's office.) The "rider" must have the form, with an Administrator's signature to board a bus.

26. If a student damages any part of a bus, the student's parents may be financially responsible.

Please acknowledge, *by signing and returning this sheet to the bus driver*, that you have received a copy of the Rules for Bus Conduct and that your bus rider(s) will abide by these rules.

We find it helpful to go over these rules with your rider(s) and stress the importance of following the rules. The rules are designed to help ensure safe transportation to and from school.

Please be aware that failure to follow these rules could result in bus riding privileges being taken from your bus rider.

I have read, understand and have explained the bus conduct rules to my bus rider(s)

Bus #

My Bus rider(s) name(s) :

Please print your name here

Signature

Date

Emergency contact phone number:

Additional comments or information: