

FORT BENTON DISTRICT #1

Fort Benton, Montana

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS' HANDBOOK

2018-2019



The Montana Pupil Transportation Handbook
will serve as a guide to school bus operation in the Fort Benton Public Schools.

Approved by Board of Trustees
Jory Thompson, Transportation Director

Adopted: August 14, 2018

Transportation Directory

BUS BARN 622-5392

Drivers

Brian Wood, Transportation Supervisor	621-5699
Marvin Brodock	622-5329
Bill Spevacek	737-4424
Bob Schoonover	739-4322
Darrel Benjamin	622-3637
Harry Buckingham	622-3293
Ken Engellant	622-3600
Tabitha Roth	622-5959
Kim Singer	622-3675
Wes Skerritt	622-3879
April Muller	590-3587
Vicky O'Hara	622-5333
Kim Merryman	750-2330

Administration

	<u>Work</u>	<u>Home</u>
Jory Thompson, District Superintendent	622-5691	217-8059
Brian Miller, HS/MS Principal	622-5112	
Steve Hamel, Business Mgr.	622-5691	390-1230

Trustees - Transportation Committee

Adam Olson - Chairperson	734-5239	Brant
Hasbrouck	761-8761	
Greg McGinnis	622-5531	
Angel Johnson	622-3495	

Sheriff's Office

622-5451

**Fort Benton District #1
Fort Benton, Montana**

To: School Bus Drivers

You are a professional school bus driver, an important link in the process of educating children. You will be helping to transport over 125 pupils to and from school approximately 450 miles each day. Activity buses travel over 50,000 miles each year providing rides to events. Every effort is made to make the school bus ride as pleasant and safe as possible.

There are four school bus routes, six yellow school buses, and three activity buses - the finest equipment available to carry out this job.

To some of you drivers it will be just another day and you will take it in stride. To others it will be a new experience.

You are responsible to the school district as well as yourself. The responsibility for the safety and welfare of students who ride school buses is shared by students, parents, bus drivers, activity sponsors, and the school district. We must all work together in order to have an efficient transportation program.

It is with these factors in mind that the following regulations are adopted. Any suggestions for the improvement of these regulations will be appreciated.

May you have a successful driving year. If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, or ideas concerning the program, students, buses or routes, please voice them.

Jory Thompson, Transportation Director

THE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

School Bus Driver Qualifications (MCA 20-10-103; ARM 10.7.111)

Montana law dictates that a school bus driver shall:

1. AGE & EXPERIENCE - Is not less than 18 years of age;
(ARM adds: Have five years of licensed driving experience;)
2. CHARACTER - Is of good moral character;
3. CDL LICENSE - Is the holder of a valid commercial driver's license;
4. DOT LICENSE - Has filed with the district a satisfactory medical examination report, on a form approved by the United States department of transportation or by the superintendent of public instruction, signed by any physician licensed in the United States. If acceptable to an insurance carrier, any licensed physician;

(A Montana commercial driver's license [CDL] requires a valid DOT physical good for two years.
5. BASIC FIRST AID CARD - Has completed a basic first aid course and holds a valid basic first aid certificate from an authorized instructor;
6. OTHER - Has complied with any other qualification established by the board of public education;
7. CERTIFICATE - Has filed with the county superintendent a certificate from the trustees of the district for which the school bus is to be driven, certifying compliance with the driver qualifications enumerated in this section; and
8. EXPIRATIONS AND RENEWAL - A school bus driver certificate remains valid until the earliest expiration date of the commercial vehicle operator's endorsement, the first aid certificate, and/or physical examination.

A new certificate must be issued to the driver when any of the above items expires and is renewed. (ARM)

9. Random Drug testing will be completed.
Please see Board Policy 6.71 for additional details.
10. The District will provide a school bus driver training program. All bus drivers shall complete 10 (ten) hours of in-service training annually.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

A. Operation of the School Bus

1. The safety of the pupils riding the bus should be the first consideration of the bus driver at all times.
2. Students must be on time; the bus cannot wait for those who are tardy. The schedule is set up to spend a maximum of five minutes at each stop.
3. No one should be permitted to stand in the bus other than to load or unload.
4. The loading and unloading of pupils should follow recommended practices. When pupils must cross the road the bus driver must use the stop signal lights and stop arm to halt all traffic from both directions. The bus driver should not open the door of the bus to unload riders until (s)he is sure that all traffic has stopped.
5. All reports that are required by the school administration must be made accurately and promptly.
6. The school bus driver must be acquainted with all the state traffic laws and driving regulations.
7. A school bus driver should never leave the bus while it has pupils aboard. In case of an accident or a breakdown(s) he/she should stay with the riders.
8. A school bus should not back up unless absolutely necessary, and never at school during a school day.
9. The school bus driver should check his/her bus and equipment each day.
10. The school bus driver must keep the bus clean at all times.
11. A route bus driver must manage the pupils so that conduct aboard the school bus is orderly and acceptable. Discipline cases should be reported to the Building Principal for advice and cooperative action.
12. All school bus accidents must be reported to the highway patrol as required by law and to school officials as required by state regulations.

13. **SCHOOL BUSES MUST COME TO A COMPLETE STOP AT ALL RAILROAD CROSSINGS. THE DRIVER MUST OPEN THE DOOR AND LOOK EACH WAY BEFORE CROSSING.**
14. The driver shall keep him/her self in the proper physical and mental condition to operate the bus with safety.
15. The driver shall stop to load or unload pupils only at designated stops.
16. The pupils shall use the emergency exits door only in cases of emergency.
17. The driver shall see that all doors on the bus are kept closed while the bus is in motion.
18. The driver shall bring the bus to a complete stop before taking on or letting off pupils.
19. The driver shall report to school officials immediately when the bus is overloaded.
20. The driver shall adhere closely to the established schedule.
21. The driver shall not permit anyone else to operate the bus.
22. The driver shall see that the bus is in condition to pass inspection at any time.
23. The driver shall not permit firearms or explosives to be carried in the bus.
24. The driver shall not permit dogs or other animals on the bus.
25. The driver shall keep his/her person neat and clean and his/her deportment comparable to that expected of a teacher. He/she shall not use tobacco on the school bus and shall not permit children to do so.
26. The driver shall abstain absolutely from the use of intoxicating liquors on days when he or she transports pupils and at least for a period of 8 hours prior to reporting to work.
27. The driver shall not transport any person who is not a pupil or an official of the school without permission from the Building Principal or as provided in a parental note.
28. If any difficulty arises or if disorder prevails in the bus, the driver shall stop the bus and shall not proceed until the situation is remedied. Misconduct of pupils shall be reported to the Building Principal.
29. Activity Buses may transport students from other schools when at an event.

30. School bus routes have been established to serve the greatest number of riders. Drivers are not permitted to make changes in routes without permission of the Transportation Director.

Recommendations for improvement of routes are encouraged. Drivers are expected to assist in determining safe and efficient bus stops. At all times the driver must keep in the bus a copy of a current route map showing stops and time schedules.

31. The school bus driver establishes an image for the transportation system. The driver's attitude toward the students, school personnel, parents and all other people determine the good or poor relationship between the school and the public. Remember, you are a part of the Fort Benton School System - represent it wholeheartedly.
32. Practice proper driving habits. Drive safely, defensively. Be courteous - yield the right of way. Don't allow traffic to build up behind you.
33. In the event of a breakdown, immediately contact your transportation supervisor or transportation director. In the event of a delay, contact a parent on your route so that others can be notified.
34. School bus drivers may not exceed the posted Speed limits. Drivers are not to exceed 60 MPH on secondary highways or 65 MPH on the Interstate, and 45 MPH on gravel. The type of bus, road conditions and weather will determine a safe speed. Remember, there is a fifteen mile per hour speed limit within school areas.
35. According to State School Laws no one may drive a school bus unless certified. Please do not arrange for your own substitute.
36. Report all mechanical deficiencies to the Transportation Supervisor.
37. Superintendent Thompson will recommend that a driver's services be terminated if a speeding ticket is received while driving a school bus.
38. Use care when drinking beverages while driving. Distractions cause accidents.
39. It is the driver's job to keep the route bus clean on the inside. Maintain a clean bus throughout the school year.
40. Please alternate fuel fill-ups at Mountain View Co-op and Joyce Fuel & Feed.
41. Route Drivers are hired to drive "a" bus. Whether the district uses the assigned route bus for an activity trip should not be a concern of the route driver.
42. Please do not leave your buses unattended with students on board, while parked at the elementary or MS/HS Building. Due to liability reasons, please DO NOT leave your buses

unattended while picking up or dropping off students at either school (AM and PM route). Pull keys if you must leave the bus.

43. When you fill up at Mountain View Co-Op and Joyce Fuel & Feed, you MUST use Colored #2 fuel. This is a non-taxed fuel that schools may use.
44. We have purchased key rings that can be separated - ignition key on one end and locks/fuel keys on the other end. DO NOT fuel up your bus while leaving the engine running. The chance of fuel ignition, even with diesel, is not worth the liability associated with such an act.
45. Tobacco use is not allowed in the bus barns or in school buses at any time.
46. Route drivers are to sweep out their buses at least once/week. Please, do this while warming up the buses in the A.M.
47. Bus drivers are to wear their seat belt at all times while driving.
48. To warm the buses use high idle. Never leave the engine low idling for more than 10 minutes. Leave bus barn overhead doors closed when bus is outside. Use remote garage door openers only when bus is outside the bus barn.
49. Make only necessary cell phone calls while on a bus driving trip. Do not place calls while driving. It is always best to pull over and stop while talking on a cell phone. Time lost is worth the added safety.
50. If a driver doesn't feel up to it, they have the right and responsibility to not drive, even if already on the road.

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Activity Trips

All students transported for any school activities, regardless of numbers of students being transported, must be transported on Montana Highway Patrol Approved School Buses or Activity Buses owned and maintained by the school district. Only in a special case or circumstance may this policy be waived by the District Transportation Director.

Assignment of Drivers and Supervisor Responsibility

School staff members may drive District buses for an activity or regular route. Whenever they are not receiving compensation for other duties assigned and whenever the list of non-staff activity drivers has been exhausted. The District reserves the right to assign bus drivers! The School Board and administration does not want to encourage double-dipping of any district funds. With regard to staff members driving district buses, this policy in no way opposes staff members from being adequately compensated for generous and competent services beyond their regular duties. All activity buses will carry a minimum of one adult supervisor, who will be responsible for the demeanor and conduct of the student riders.

Extracurricular Bus Driver Salary for 2016-2017

1. Unless otherwise specifically approved in writing by the Transportation Director, bus drivers shall not be paid per diem for meals or be reimbursed for meals on extracurricular trips, except where all those on the trip receive school paid meals. Bus Drivers should put their meals on the same P.O. as the students.
2. The rate is \$14.05/hour. These rates are subject to change by the Board.
3. A maximum of one hour is allowed for sweeping, mopping, and refueling the bus upon return to Fort Benton. Drivers who do not clean buses will not get driving assignments.

TOBACCO FREE POLICY

The District maintains tobacco-free buildings and grounds. Tobacco includes, but is not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smoking tobacco, and smokeless tobacco.

Use of tobacco products in a public school building or on public school property is prohibited, unless the use of a tobacco product in a classroom or on other school property as part of a lecture, demonstration, or educational forum sanctioned by a school administrator or faculty member concerning the risks associated with using tobacco products.

For the purpose of this policy, “public school building or public school property” means:

- public land, fixtures, buildings, or other property owned or occupied by an institution for the teaching of minor children that is established and maintained under the laws of the state of Montana at public expense; and
- Includes playgrounds, school steps, parking lots, administration buildings, athletic facilities, gymnasiums, locker rooms, and school buses.

B. Supervision of Pupils

1. The driver is responsible for enforcing all regulations governing conduct of pupils from the time the pupils enter the bus in the morning until they alight from it at the schoolhouse, and from the time they enter the bus at the schoolhouse until they alight at their regular stops. The driver's relationship with pupils should be on the same plane as that expected of a teacher. Students may not get off at other stops and ride with someone else in cars, etc. without proper permission.
2. Drivers are cautioned against putting pupils off along the route for breach of discipline. Such pupils should be unloaded at the home stop and notified that they will not be conveyed until the matter has been cleared with the proper school officials.
3. At least twice annually, drivers will instruct students in regard to safe riding procedure, use of emergency equipment, and conduct two evacuations per school year. The place for conducting emergency evacuations will be designated by the Director of Transportation.
4. The driver shall give full instructions to all pupils on the bus concerning the proper procedure in crossing the road after alighting from the bus.
5. When stopping the bus on the highway, the driver, after ascertaining that the way is clear, and with stop arm and signals in operation, shall signal pupils across the road in front of the bus. Students should be able to see your face at all times.
6. The driver is expected to report all cases of disobedience of the pupils to the proper authorities. The driver should keep written records of student disobedience. Discipline forms are in the bus log book.
7. Bus driver's spouse/children and coach's spouse/children are not to ride the bus without prior authorization from the Transportation Director/Coaches/Sponsor.
8. Permission slips are not required for any students riding to school.

C. Accident Procedure

1. In case a rider is injured in boarding the bus, while on the bus, or when leaving the bus, a complete report must be made to the Building Principal.
2. The driver shall be thoroughly familiar with the contents of the first-aid kit that is required in all school buses.
3. The driver should not, except in extreme emergency, leave the bus to summon help in case of an accident or a breakdown. If at all possible, use the two-way radio or phone.
4. In case of an accident, the driver is to notify the Fort Benton Police Department or Sheriff's Office first, then the proper school officials. Following the accident the bus is NOT to be moved for any reason until okayed by the investigating officers.

5. The driver shall always put out warning flares or flags, in case of an emergency which may require the bus to stop on the highway for any length of time.

"USE YOUR SEAT BELTS - THIS IS REQUIRED BY LAW"

PUPIL RESPONSIBILITIES/REGULATIONS

1. There will be no pushing or scuffling while the bus is loading.
2. Pupils will go immediately to a seat and sit down upon entering the bus.
3. Pupils will keep arms, hands, head and all parts of the body inside the bus when in motion.
4. Pupils will not throw objects out of the bus while it is standing or moving.
5. Pupils will keep books, packages, equipment or other objects out of the aisles at all times. Articles should either be placed under the seat, on the racks, or held in the laps of the pupils. Use storage units first, if available.
6. Talk should be in conversational tones. There should be no shouting or loud talking which may distract the bus driver. Riders should not carry on unnecessary conversation with the driver.
7. Scuffling, playing or fighting on the bus will not be allowed. This may endanger all the pupils.
8. Pupils will remain in their seats at bus stops until the bus is completely stopped. Pupils should be at the bus stop at the time the bus is scheduled to arrive.
9. When it is necessary for a pupil to cross the road at a bus stop, the crossing should be made only in front of the bus, after looking both ways to make sure no traffic is approaching from either direction and upon signal from the driver.
10. Pupils should instantly obey any command or suggestions from the drivers.
11. Profanity, vulgarity or indecent language will not be tolerated.
12. Repeated acts of misconduct may result in the revocation of riding privileges.
13. Malicious damage to the bus will result in immediate refusal to transport the guilty party, plus restitution.

SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE

Rider conduct is one of the major problems confronting school bus drivers. Poor discipline aboard the bus can lead to a serious accident. In fact, other than teaching children how to get along with others, the only reason for demanding good conduct aboard the bus is for safety purposes.

School bus discipline is a joint problem of the driver and school administration.

The driver is the first line of resistance to poor conduct, but s(he) has full and active support of the school administration. School officials can be expected to act swiftly and emphatically when called upon by a driver for assistance in handling a disciplinary case.

A regular form is given to the drivers on which to report riders not heeding the driver's requests and demands. The rider is then confronted with this accusation by school officials.

It has been found that close cooperation between driver, school officials and parents results in good citizenship.

Drivers need to show proof of communication to parents either via phone (have parents phone building principal) or use bus conduct form. Turn one copy in to building principal.

LOADING AND UNLOADING

This is the point at which most accidents occur. The student's safety is your responsibility.

The driver is expected to be in the bus while loading.

While loading, do not allow students to crowd the door. Insist they form an orderly line. Insist that students go immediately to their seats and remain seated.

Buses are designed for three elementary passengers to a seat. This may not be possible with older students. Work out a satisfactory arrangement for the best utilization of all seats. See to it that those at the end of the line do not have to struggle for a seat. No one should be permitted to stand, except for loading and unloading. Don't use the brakes if a student is standing, in order to get his/her attention.

When students must cross the road to be picked up, they are to wait for the driver's signal to cross the road. Be sure traffic is clear. In unloading, students must cross in front of the bus, and likewise, wait for the driver's signal to cross the road.

They should be able to see your face at all times and watch for your signals.

Avoid unnecessary bus stops. Where possible, have students meet at a central spot, provided it is not a traffic hazard.

Never leave a student alone at a bus stop. Bring him or her back to town if necessary.

Bus zones have been provided at all schools. Unless other arrangements have been made, load at the Elementary and Senior High School in those zones. You are expected to be at the schools when school dismisses. If possible, park bumper to bumper and in the same order each day.

Before leaving the schools, BE SURE YOU HAVE ALL YOUR PASSENGERS. The first week will be especially difficult as the younger students are easily confused.

School personnel will be on hand at the Elementary bus zone to assist in clearing traffic for you. Please do not pull out of line.

SIGNAL LIGHTS

Your bus is equipped with two amber and two red lights on the front and rear of the bus.

Turn on the warning light switch before making the first stop or pickup. Turn it off when making the last stop or pickup.

Start flashing amber lights at least 500 feet before stopping to pick up and discharging students.

Warning lights are not to be used in school bus zones at school, only on the road or highway.

Use the roof-mounted strobe light when visibility is poor. Strobe lights are a distraction to other drivers in good weather.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY TRIPS AND FIELD TRIPS

1. Drivers are expected to be **at the loading area at least 15 minutes before departure time. Buses need to be warmed up at least 10 minutes at the bus barn in cold weather.**
2. Assist in loading luggage, uniforms and band instruments. Do not block the emergency door. DO NOT allow passengers to open/close the under storage doors of the activity bus since this is a driver's responsibility. Please understand that the activity driver is responsible for the care of the bus as well as driving the vehicle.

3. Depart according to your schedule and instructions from the coach or sponsor.
4. You are in full charge of the bus and the passengers safety. The driver makes all decisions concerning road conditions and safe travel, whether to continue or return due to weather/safety conditions. Check with the coach in regard to bus needs while at the activity. The Coach has the total authority over the drivers concerning schedule changes, stops other than emergencies, and pick up times while at an activity. The driver's job is to get the bus passengers from Point A to Point B safely and while at the activity avail themselves completely to the activity and the needs of the students as determined by the coach.
5. Behavior of the pupils is the coaches'/sponsors' responsibility. If the students are too loud, or otherwise distract the driver, notify the coach/sponsor to re-establish order. If a coach/sponsor is consistently negligent in this, notify the administration. Hitting the brake to discipline students will not be tolerated.
6. In cold weather have your bus warm before loading students after activities.
7. Park only in authorized areas at other schools.
8. Keep the bus locked to protect your property, as well as that of the students.
9. It is the coaches/sponsor's responsibility to not allow students to shout at a passerby or get involved with students at other schools by harassing them from the bus.
10. Never, under any condition, go under the Fort Benton railway underpass, loaded or empty.
11. Check your bus after activities for flat tires, glass breakage, etc.
12. Try to have your bus clean before departing on a trip.
13. Make sure the bus is clean inside when you are done with it. This is the driver's responsibility and no one else's. You can ask the coaches/advisors to have the students help pick up trash. Drivers that continue to do a poor job of cleaning will receive less/no driving time.
14. Keep an adequate supply of fuel in case of trouble on the road. Credit cards are available from the transportation supervisor if you think you may need one. Do not overfill fuel tank. Once pump nozzle clicks off, tank is at specified capacity.
15. If you have any questions in regard to route, destination, or location of the school, check with your sponsor or transportation supervisor.
16. The activity driver is to remain at the destination point unless the coach/advisor has other plans.

17. Buses are not to be parked at your home at any time. Buses are to be parked at the bus barn. See the Transportation Supervisor for exceptions to this rule.
18. Continual complaints concerning drivers will decrease or prohibit your scheduled activity driving time.
19. Mechanical problems with your activity bus needs to be reported **DIRECTLY** to the Transportation Supervisor. This report must be in writing or stated in person.
20. Do not coach the passengers you are driving for. We have coaches who are paid to do this and it only causes confusion with the athletes.
21. Coaches/Advisors may want to attend another function after their particular activity is over for the day. Drivers are expected to honor the request.
22. No one is to stand on the bus while it is in motion. No exceptions. Drivers that allow this to occur will be reprimanded as will those who refuse to sit. **STANDEES** (while in motion) **WILL BE PROHIBITED ON ALL SCHOOL BUSES.**
23. Windows may be opened upon the discretion of the driver AND/OR the coach/sponsor.
24. School bus drivers may not exceed the posted Speed limits. Drivers are not to exceed 65 MPH. The type of bus, road conditions and weather will determine a safe speed. Remember, there is a fifteen mile per hour speed limit within school areas.
25. The bus drivers are not allowed to discourage students from the use of the bus at an activity.

Students can and will be in and out of the bus for various reasons. Contact the coach/advisor if this is a serious problem.

26. Students will be allowed to eat food or snacks or drink beverages on the bus. This policy will be revoked, by the administration, if problems arise due to this privilege. Any shelled foods are not allowed to be eaten on ANY bus trip . No exceptions.

The Coaches/Advisors will be held accountable if this occurs.

27. **Spiked shoes** are not to be worn onto any school owned bus.
28. Activity salaries/meal reimbursement will not be honored after June 10th of each year. No compensation will be received after that date.

*****Please turn in your white bus slips, etc. as soon as possible and no later than two weeks after each trip.**

29. Please alternate fuel fill-ups at Mountain View Co-op (Cenex) and Joyce Fuel & Feed.

30. Do not leave your bus unattended with students on board. There are exceptions but they are on a limited basis.
31. Bus drivers children/spouse and coaches children/spouse are not to ride the bus unless written permission is granted from the Transportation Director.
32. Upon your return home from a trip:
 - a. Disposal of trash - all trash must be disposed of at the **bus barn dumpsters** at the street.
 - b. Sweep the floor. Use the brooms at the bus barn.
 - c. Mop the floor. Use the mops at the bus barn.
 - d. Fuel up the bus so it is ready to go the following day.
33. Please do a radio check each time you leave on a trip. This only applies if the bus is leaving during regular office hours.
34. When you fill up at Mountain View Co-Op & Joyce Fuel & Feed, You MUST use Colored fuel. This is a non-taxed fuel that schools can use. **Again, please alternate your fill ups at both places.**
35. Please be careful when refueling the activity bus. Do not overfill fuel tanks. Once pump nozzle clicks off, tank is full to specified capacity. Spilled diesel over the sides of the bus causes problems with the seals on the side door.
36. Tobacco use is not allowed in the bus barns or in school buses at any time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE

1. Bus Rules - Have parents sign a list of passenger rules at the beginning of the year indicating that they and their students have read and understand them. This will ensure that the parents and students have been made aware of the rules in case problems develop. Keep the signed sheets on file.
2. Know the Parents - Drivers should visit each parent on the route, as discipline problems many times are reduced if a parent visitation has been made.
Meet the parents before problems occur, not after.
3. Seat Assignments - Assigned seats reduce disagreements among students about seating arrangements and help the driver know who is responsible for mischief. It is suggested that assigned seats be changed every 9 weeks or so.
4. Punishment Seats - If front seats are used for punishment, set a time limit on the punishment so that if the students' behavior improves they can be rewarded by allowing them to

sit elsewhere on the bus. Students must feel that proper behavior is worth the effort, and rewards can help.

5. Set the Tone - Tolerate noise on the bus only to the extent that it does not impair the safety of the students. Decide and be consistent. Students do not resent discipline, but do resent inconsistency.
6. Reward or Award - Try to reward good behavior in some way whenever possible. A student often misbehaves to gain attention of the driver or other students.
7. Music - Drivers generally agree that radios and tape decks are valuable for discipline. Music also can be used as a reward for good behavior. Students must use headsets on the bus, when listening to music. The driver controls the volume on the bus radio/tape player for safety reasons.
8. Discipline Report Slips - These slips tell how, when, and where the student misbehaved, and is signed and sent to school authorities and parents. The slip should describe the consequences of continued misbehavior.
9. Stopping the Bus - If a discipline problem is serious, stop the bus and deal with the problem. Do not attempt to operate the bus and solve a major discipline problem at the same time - it may impair safe vehicle operation.
10. Make a Judgment - How important is the misbehavior? Take a second or two to make that judgment before you react to a discipline problem.
11. Firm, but Fair - Give the students time to react to your instructions. Be concerned with their needs and try to be honest and friendly, and firm but fair.
12. If you want a Building Principal to speak to your riders, just ask.
13. Be friendly to your passengers. Earn their respect. Don't expect it.
14. Video games may be played on buses as long as the volume is turned off and not distracting.

DRIVER INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANCELED ROUTES

The following is the procedure, in order, for route cancellation!

1. Make **every effort** to run the route. **Safety is the #1 Priority.**
2. Receive authorization from the Transportation Director in any cancellation.

3. Call **ALL** parents on your route from your bus phone. Don't relay messages to other parents but actually speak to one person in each household. You will still be paid for a day of driving even if the buses do not go out.
4. Continue calling until **ALL** parents have been notified. Please call the parents in the order that you pick their children up on the route.
5. Be prepared to run the PM route even if the AM route was canceled: Please meet in the Transportation Director's office prior to the PM run to determine if the route will run.
6. Do not use the shop phone on cancellation days. Use your own phone. Parents may be trying to get through to report road conditions. etc.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

DRIVING ERRORS

ATTENTION SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS: Learn to recognize driving errors that lead to accidents before they happen.

1. **Before Start Up:**
 - a. Failure to properly evaluate personal, mental, and physical condition.
 - b. Failure to signal when pulling away from curb.
 - c. Failure to wait for break in traffic before moving.
2. **Speed Control:**
 - a. Too fast for volume of traffic.
 - b. Too fast for condition of the road surface.
 - c. Too fast for visibility conditions (due to weather or road).
 - d. Too fast for light conditions (dusk darkness).
 - e. Too fast for neighborhood or roadside environment.
 - f. Too fast for street highway layout and traffic signals.
 - g. Too slow for speed of traffic stream.
3. **Improper Lane Usage:**
 - a. Failure to select proper lane.
 - b. Failure to drive in center of lane.

- c. Abrupt lane change.
 - d. Failure to signal intent to change lanes.
 - e. Weaving in and out of traffic lanes.
4. Passing Errors:
- a. Misjudging speed and nearness of oncoming vehicle.
 - b. Failure to check side and rear before pulling out to pass.
 - c. Overtaking and passing too slowly.
 - d. Failure to signal intention of passing to driver being passed.
 - e. Cutting in too quickly after passing.
 - f. Unnecessary passing.

A bus driver can be the most important individual in the student's day. A friendly greeting can erase the tensions of rushing to get ready for school and set a positive tone for the coming school day. You can make up for a missed breakfast or sharp words spoken in haste at home.

By the same token, a few kind words at the end of the day can make up for a fight with other students, a poor grade, or a problem with a teacher.

The child can go home feeling better about the day, the school, and his or her success.

Choose your words carefully. Your students are very precious. Guard their safety well and remember that you are often the most effective and visible ambassador of goodwill that the school district employs. You will be remembered for the rest of your students' lives.

Cell Phone Numbers

Bus #1	788-2654	(Traveler)
Bus #2	788-2651	(Spare)
Bus #3	788-2655	(Spare)
Bus #4	788-2649	(East Route)
Bus #5	788-2652	(Traveler)
Bus #6	788-2647	(Carter Route)
Bus #7	788-2648	(Pleasant Valley)
Bus #8	788-2650	(Loma)

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Bus #9 788-2653 (Traveler)

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