

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bus Transportation ~ Expectations for Student Behaviors

Student safety is our first priority. The following *Bus Transportation ~ Expectations for Student Behaviors* are intended to ensure our students experience safe and secure transportation while attending Rockaway Township Schools.

These *Expectations for Student Behaviors* will be reviewed with students during bus safety drills which are required by the New Jersey Administrative Code. Specifically;

The school administration shall organize and conduct emergency exit drills at least twice within the school year for all students who are transported to and from school. All other students shall receive school bus evacuation instruction at least once within the school year. The school bus driver shall participate in emergency drills. Drills shall be conducted on school property and shall be supervised by the Principal or person assigned to act in a supervisory capacity (NJAC 6A:27-11.2).

In addition to bus drills, it is imperative that parents thoroughly review and discuss the *Expectations for Student Behaviors* with their child. The signatures below indicate that you and your child understand acceptable bus behaviors and acknowledge the consequences that follow misbehaviors.

School buses are provided to ensure the safe passage of students between home and school. Students may only ride their assigned bus. Students may never change their assigned bus. If a parent requests a temporary change due to an emergency, a request from the parent/guardian must be emailed or written to the school's main office prior to the student's arrival. The correspondence must include an explanation of the emergency that supports the requested change, the bus route requested and a phone number so the change can be confirmed. The parent will be notified if the change can be accommodated.

Students must clearly understand that while riding on a school bus, they are under the authority of the school and that all school regulations, school district policies, and state laws must be followed. Students must conduct themselves according to the following expectations:

1. Students may only ride the bus to which they are assigned (please see paragraph 4).
2. Students must sit in their assigned seat.
3. Upon boarding the bus, students will go directly to their assigned seats.
4. Seat belts must be secure immediately upon being seated and remain secure for the duration of the trip.
5. Students may not leave their seat until the bus has arrived at their destination.
6. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner by being courteous, obeying the law, and respecting property. The *District Code of Conduct* and HIB policy will be strictly enforced while riding the bus and at bus stops.
7. Bus windows may not be opened by students; only the driver may open bus windows.
8. All limbs (arms, legs and head) must never extend outside the bus windows.
9. No material (e.g. water bottles, trash, etc.) may be discarded from the bus or left on the bus. Eating and drinking is not permitted.
10. Distracting the bus driver in any way is prohibited. Shouting, loud noises, foul or abusive language is not permitted.

Students who do not adhere to the above rules will lose their privilege for riding a bus for a period of time as indicated in the "Consequences" below. For students whose bus privileges are revoked, transportation is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

The preceding *Expectations for Student Behaviors* are supported by New Jersey Statute (18A:25-2) which reads:

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A teacher or other person in authority over such pupils shall hold every pupil accountable for disorderly conduct in school and during recess and on the playgrounds of the school and on the way to and from school. The driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times and shall be responsible for order; he/she shall never exclude a pupil from the bus, but, if unable to manage any pupil, shall report the unmanageable pupil to the principal of the school which he/she attends. A pupil may be excluded from the bus for disciplinary reasons by the principal and his/her parents shall provide for his/her transportation to and from school during the period of each exclusion.

Consequences for Failure to Follow the Expectations for Student Behaviors (Numbers 1 -10) Listed Above

The Expectations for Student Behaviors will be strictly enforced. Infractions will result in the following consequences:

First Offense: Bus suspension of one to four days, parent notification.

Second Offense: Bus suspension of 5 or more days, parent notification.

Third Offense: Bus suspension extended for one month minimum, or for the remainder of the school year, parent notification.

Please note: students will not receive "warnings." Consequences will follow the first offense. The administration reserves the right to remove an unruly student from the bus at any time.

The Rockaway Township School District is committed to keeping all students safe from the time they leave their home, until they return. We hope these *Expectations for Student Behaviors* will provide parents with confidence knowing that their child is safe throughout the school day.

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand these *Expectations for Student Behaviors* as described above.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Student Signature	Date	Parent Signature*	Date

*Acknowledgement on Genesis is acceptable.