

TRANSPORTATION & BUS CONDUCT GUIDELINES

It is the intent of the Foxborough Regional Charter School to comply with the laws of the Commonwealth, including the regulations of the Registry of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Education relative to transportation of pupils. Those laws and regulations govern any areas not covered by specific declarations of policy and they shall supersede this Policy in the event of any conflict. These rules also apply to Late Buses and Field Trip buses.

Authorized bus stops will be located at designated areas, accessible to students from surrounding neighborhoods, centralized bus stop locations will be utilized to reduce bus route mileage and time, bus routes have been designed to minimize the amount of time a child will be on the bus. Students will be required to board at "common" bus stops. Door to door bus service is not provided, and buses will not be allowed to enter cul-de-sac areas. Bus stops may only change as deemed necessary and authorized by the School Administration. ***Students are to ride only buses that they are assigned to, for safety and liability purposes, drivers are instructed to check bus passes.***

Although bus routes may have to be adjusted somewhat after the school year begins due to the implementation of the new program, no adjustments will be made during the first week and one half of school, any and all adjustments will be made after this period. The School will charge a bus transportation fee as allowed by law. Late fees may apply. The School will establish the level of service and fees each year.

Once a child boards the bus, and only at that time does he or she become the responsibility of Foxborough Regional Charter School. Such responsibility shall end when the child is delivered to the regular bus stop at the close of the school day. The parent/guardian is responsible for the behavior and safety of the student between the residence and the designated bus stop, while waiting at the bus stop, and at the afternoon drop off and are not the responsibility of F.R.C.S.

The procedure for handling behavior problems, including bad language, on school buses shall be as follows:

- a. First Offense - A letter and the Bus Conduct Form, or phone call, shall be sent from School Administration to the parents of the student advising the parents of the offense.
- b. Second Offense - Bus privileges may be revoked for a minimum of three to five school days and parents shall be so notified by School Administration.
- c. Third Offense - Transportation privileges may be taken away from the student for the remainder of the school year, and the parents shall be so notified by School Administration.

BUS CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE RULES

We are pleased to offer school bus privileges for the 2008/09 school year. A school bus is an extension of the school itself and the same code of conduct with appropriate consequences will apply for bus misbehavior as they do in school. School bus safety is a primary concern of F.R.C.S. and the schools reserves the right to take whatever action is necessary to maintain a high level of safety. The right of a pupil to school bus transportation is a qualified right, dependent on appropriate behavior. In cases where a pupil seriously or continuously violates the code of conduct, parents will be notified by the School. The bus pass will be revoked if, in the opinion of the School, such action is necessary for the general safety and well being of other students.

In cases where a pupil's conduct jeopardizes the safety and well being of other students, based upon the assessment of the driver, that pupil may be immediately excluded from the bus. These rules also apply to late buses and field trip buses.

PUPILS WHO RIDE A SCHOOL BUS ARE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. The parent is responsible for the behavior of the student between the residence and the designated bus stop and at the designated bus stop. Be on time for the bus but do not arrive earlier than 10 minutes before the time at which the bus usually arrives. Observe all safety rules while waiting for the bus, pupils shall stand on the sidewalk or another designated place while waiting for the school bus. Avoid trespassing on private property; respect other people's property, and the right of other people to pass on the sidewalk. Display manners that indicate consideration and safety for others and do not play in the roads, if possible avoid crossing streets.

2. Students shall be picked up and discharged only at their designated stops or F. R. C. S. The legal residence of the student shall be used to establish designated bus stops, except as herein provided.

3. Pupils shall never approach a school bus until it has completely stopped and the door is opened. In boarding the bus, they should proceed in an orderly manner, single file and be seated immediately. Younger students should board and alight first from the bus. No student shall prevent another from occupying a seating space.

4. **Students shall remain seated at all times, facing forward in assigned seating.** Pupils shall not open windows without permission. Do not throw anything out of the window. Do not put your hands, arms or any parts of your body out of the window at anytime. Do not open the rear exit emergency door unless there is an emergency or you are directed by the driver.

5. In crossing the roadway after alighting from the bus, cross only in front of the bus when the blinking lights are on and the stop sign is extended. Pass at least 10 feet in front of the bus and look for traffic in both directions before crossing the roadway. Never run beside a bus, chase after a bus or pick up anything that has fallen near the wheels of a bus.

6. The bus driver has full authority as well as responsibility for control of the conduct of pupils while they are on the bus. Pupils should not annoy the operator or distract his/her attention from driving. They should be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. He/She has a very important task to perform and needs your help.

7. There shall be no pushing, striking or general fooling. Pupils are not allowed to use profane or abusive language. Pupils who witness the destruction of property have a responsibility to report such misbehavior to the driver or school authorities. ***Vandalism, destruction or defacing of property will not be tolerated and parents will be held financially responsible.***

8. All Eligible students will be issued a bus pass which they must show to the driver each day upon entering the bus. The pass entitles students a school bus ride to and from school. *Students are to ride only the bus to which they are assigned.* A student who allows another student to use his/her bus pass or sells his/her bus pass is subject to having the bus pass privileges revoked. Unauthorized duplication of a bus pass may result in loss of bus riding privileges.

9. Under no circumstances should drugs, alcohol or related items, firearms, explosives, knives or weapons be brought onto a school bus. **Do not bring large art projects, large instruments, animals, pets, hazardous materials or other large objects on the school bus.** It is the parent's responsibility to arrange other transportation for such matters. Lunch boxes, smaller musical instruments and small athletic equipment (those which can easily be transported on a student's lap or under the seat in front of you), less than 1 yard long, 1 foot wide and 10 inches high must be kept out of the aisle.

10. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide health information to school bus drivers. If your child has a ***LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL CONDITION*** that the bus driver should be aware of, please use the form available on the school web-site entitled "Emergency Medical Information for Bus Drivers". Return completed form to your school or fax to the contracted Transportation Provider.

11. **There is no eating, drinking, or smoking on the school buses. Eating on the school bus poses a risk of choking and potentially endangers students with food allergies.** The bus must be kept neat without litter.

12. Late Bus transportation may be provided in addition to the regular bus runs. Late Bus services are intended to encourage students to extend the scholastic requirements of the regular school day as well as to participation in after school athletic and student activities. Students must be eligible for Regular Bus Transportation and have paid a Late Bus service fee to ride the late bus.

13. A pupil who pays a fee for transportation and whose riding privileges are suspended because of violation of these rules **will not receive a fee refund.**