

## **Bus Route Efficiency**

A bus route is designed to make maximum use of each vehicle. Efficient routes make minimal stops and travel down a limited number of streets. Unnecessary stops or delays have a ripple effect on the entire schedule.

Safety and efficient use of time are the reasons our buses do not travel down cul-de-sacs or dead-end streets. Sending a bus down these types of streets sometimes requires the bus to back up, this is a potentially dangerous situation and one that the Michigan Department of Education advises against.

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## **Bus Rules**

Don't Lose Your Riding Privilege! Follow these rules:

- Students may only ride the bus they are assigned to ride.
- Observe same conduct as in the classroom.
- Be courteous, use no profane language.
- Do not eat or drink on the bus.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Cooperate with the driver.
- Do not be destructive.
- Stay in your seat.
- Keep your head, hands and feet inside the bus.
- The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.

For reasons of safety and in order to comply with state law and transportation procedures, the following items are not allowed on a school bus:

- Glass objects; bottles, jars, etc.
  - Open containers of food, drink, and at no time peanuts or peanut butter.
  - Live animals, bugs, worms.
  - Oversize objects and instruments; those that cannot fit safely in the seat with the student.
  - Weapons; guns, knives, razor blades, etc. (real or toy).
  - Sports equipment which could endanger others; like javelins, pole vaults, shot puts, or skate boards.
  - Any item which cannot be transported easily or which creates a safety concern.
  - The use of electronic devices such as cell phones, and items that generate noise (without the use of headphones).
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## **Bus Stops**

At RCSD, most students are required to walk to consolidated bus stops throughout the District.

Students should be at the bus stop at least five minutes before their scheduled pick up time. Students must use only their designated bus stop.

Students need to wait at the bus stop in an orderly fashion and also be careful not to walk on the grass or damage shrub beds. Students should wait at their bus stop in a single line, 15 feet away from the roadway.

Parents, guardians or an authorized person must accompany kindergartners to and from the bus stop. The bus driver is instructed not to leave the kindergartner alone. We do this for your child's continued safety. Most bus stops are arranged so that students are picked up on the right hand side of the road.

Bus stops are planned for efficiencies, it is possible that you may not be able to see your child from your home while they are waiting for their school bus. Seeing your student is not part of the criteria in placing bus stops. Please see "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" created by the Michigan Department of Education.

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## **School Cancelation**

There may be times during the school year where it may be necessary to cancel school due to adverse weather conditions, building problems, etc. RCSD gathers information on road, weather, and safety conditions from a wide variety of sources. The RCDS administration considers the actual weather conditions, the actual building conditions, the forecasted weather and the projected impact on road conditions during the peak student transportation windows. When school is canceled for the district, no transportation will be provided to any student regardless of the location of the student program including career technical educations and special education services provided outside the district, even if the district housing the program may be open. Every attempt is made to provide the public with information on school cancellations as early as possible. The announcement will be communicated on all local medias, such as; local radio, local television.

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## **Kindergarten**

Kindergartners are picked up and dropped off at consolidated neighborhood stops during the A.M. pickup times and the P.M. drop off times.

All kindergarten students are to be met at their bus stop by a parent or a person(s) authorized. Bus drivers are instructed to never leave a kindergarten student alone. In the event that you or your authorized person(s) are not at the bus stop to receive your student, the bus driver has been instructed to radio our dispatch office. A reasonable effort will be made to call the home. If contact cannot be made, Dispatch will notify your child's assigned school, the driver will return your child to their school at the end of the bus route to await your arrival.

- Please instruct your child never to leave their bus until they see you, or a person responsible, at the bus stop.
- Please practice walking with your child to familiarize him/her with the area surrounding the bus stop and the walk path to and from the bus stop. By familiarizing your child with the area surrounding their bus stop, it will help insure that your child recognizes their bus stop.
- It is important to attach a name tag to your child's outerwear and also in or on their backpacks for at least the first month of school. This tag should indicate your child's name, and school they are attending.

During the first two weeks of school, buses tend to be delayed in arrival and departure – this is not unusual. Schools, drivers, and students are all adjusting to the start of a new school year, please be patient. During this start up period, some parents have chosen to transport their children to and from school until all “kinks” are worked out of the transportation system.

Articles left on buses are usually maintained on each bus for a few days. Following this time period articles are then brought into the Transportation Office and maintained for one month. All items, clothing, book bags, instruments, show and tell items, etc. should always be labeled with your child's name and school. Please do not send anything on the bus that cannot be safely transported on your child's lap.

### **Student Arrival Time At Bus Stops**

All students (K-12) are to be at their bus stops, ready to board the bus, no later than five minutes prior to scheduled stop times. Designated pick up and drop off points and times, as defined by the district, must be adhered to in order to continue a safe and efficient transportation system. Drivers are not allowed to stop to pick up students anywhere other than designated bus stops.

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### **Special Needs Students**

Special Needs bus stops are curb to curb, meaning; some subdivisions/complexes buses will get as close to your home address as possible. Please complete [this form](#) and return it to the Transportation Department.

Only your home address, within the RCSD boundary can be used for pick up and drop offs.

Because of efficiencies, all parents of students with special needs should contact the transportation dispatch office at 734-285-3900, ext. 7223 if your child will not be attending school on a given day. This will allow the drivers to make adjustments to their routes and keep the buses on schedule. Please do not contact the bus driver.

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