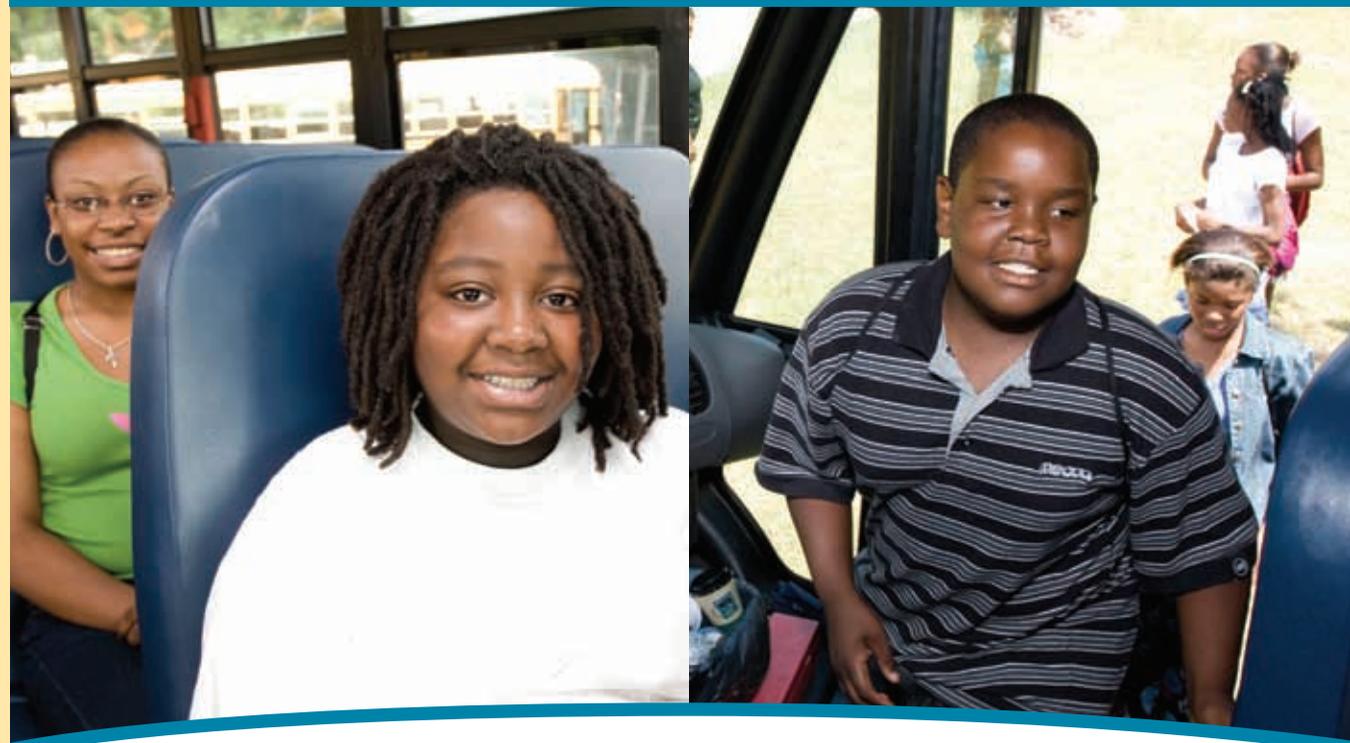


# bus safety <sup>and</sup> conduct standards for students



**The Atlanta Public Schools primary goal for operating school bus services is to transport students safely to and from school each day.**

At Atlanta Public Schools, we are committed to maintaining a safe environment for all students whether they are inside or outside the school building. Key to that commitment is ensuring that our transportation services adhere to the highest standards of quality and excellence. With parental support, each student is expected to demonstrate acceptable conduct and to be aware of correct safety procedures while traveling on our school buses. This brochure provides general guidelines of acceptable conduct for school bus riders. The student disciplinary policies of Atlanta Public Schools govern students and their behavior.



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Atlanta Public Schools

Transportation Department

# bus safety <sup>and</sup> conduct standards for students



## STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Acknowledge that the driver governs the bus and follow instructions the first time that they are given.
2. Follow bus safety rules.
3. Refrain from bringing sharp objects, alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco onto the school bus.
4. Board and exit the bus at their assigned stop.
5. Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled time of the bus arrival.
6. Wait for the bus in a safe place away from the roadway.
7. Respect the property and privacy of others while at the bus stop.
8. Avoid traffic dangers and remain a safe distance from the approaching bus until it comes to a complete stop.
9. Promptly board the bus in an orderly manner.
10. Avoid crowding or pushing while boarding or exiting the bus.
11. Use the handrail while going up or down the steps of the bus.
12. Avoid boarding or exiting the bus from the rear emergency door, unless instructed to do so by the driver.
13. Go directly to a seat and remain seated while the bus is moving.
14. Talk quietly, without making loud noises.
15. Keep feet and legs out of the aisle and refrain from placing arms or heads out of the window.
16. Avoid playing with school bus equipment.
17. Refrain from throwing objects at, on or from the school bus.
18. Never do anything that could distract the driver or other students.
19. Refrain from fighting anywhere, including on the school bus.
20. Avoid playing and chasing other students or hanging onto school buses. Students should remain cautious at all times when traveling on or standing near school buses to avoid the possibility of being dragged under the wheels of the bus and seriously injured.
21. Never crawl or reach under the wheels of the bus.
22. Provide the driver a written note signed by a parent/guardian and school principal before he/she is allowed to ride a different bus or to go home with another student.
23. Enter or exit the bus stop area only when it is safe, cross roadways at intersections or crosswalks only when it is safe, and look both ways while crossing. Always assume that cars will not stop for you.
24. Go directly home or to the place parents have designated, when exiting the school bus.
25. Never behave in an unsafe manner on or around the bus.

## SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Operate buses safely and in accordance with all laws, rules, regulations and guidelines.
2. Travel only assigned and scheduled routes.
3. Inform supervisors and school principals of unsafe bus stop locations or conditions.
4. Maintain order on the bus and report safety and conduct violations to the school principal for corrective action.
5. Assist and support the principal and other administrators in all disciplinary decisions.
6. Remind students about safety on a regular basis.

## PRINCIPALS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Promote safety and proper conduct on buses, and reserve the right to suspend bus privileges for students who are guilty of misbehavior or committing unsafe acts.
2. Maintain current disciplinary and route files for each bus.
3. Greet school buses each morning and afternoon to supervise school loading zones.
4. Ensure that students board and ride the correct bus.
5. Work with the Atlanta Public Schools Transportation Division to ensure that a safe and timely mode of transportation is provided for students.
6. Educate students about school bus safety.

## PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. The safety and conduct of their children when they are en route to the bus stop, while waiting for the bus to arrive and when departing the bus stop after school.
2. Assisting the school in teaching their children to observe safety rules while riding the bus.
3. Making sure that their children board the bus only at the appropriate stop.
4. Cooperating with the bus driver and school to maintain discipline and safety on the bus.
5. Having appropriate adult supervision at home to receive students in the Program for Exceptional Children upon their arrival from school.

*The home and school must work as a team to make school bus trips a safe experience.*

## PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read and understand the **Bus Safety and Conduct Standards for Students Brochure** and agree to assume responsibility for my child's conduct on Atlanta Public Schools school buses.

**Print Child's Name:**

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**Grade:**

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**School:**

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**Route Number:**

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**Parent Signature:**

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**Date:**

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**PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS  
SIGNED COPY TO THE SCHOOL.**