

# Transportation Expectations

## Introduction:

Thank you for trusting us with your child's school transportation needs. The school bus is an extension of school day, so all school rules apply to the bus. While we strive to provide your family and children with the safest and most enjoyable transportation experience possible, we are simply unable to succeed without parent support and cooperation. Please help keep our bus environment SAFE, RESPECTFUL and RESPONSIBLE for the 1,900 students we service each day. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning student transportation, please feel free to call us at 406-388-0572.

**Currently Belgrade Student Transportation requires that kindergarten and 1st grade students be met at their afternoon school bus stop by a parent or legal guardian for their safety.**

**Students are required to be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time.**

## PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDE TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICE:

### Bus Behavior Expectations

It is the expectation of the Belgrade School District to view the bus environment as a direct extension of the school day. To help with this, the general student behavior expectations established at all Belgrade School District Schools are consistent with the general student behavior expectations established for bus service. These general student behavior expectations include the following:

1. Be SAFE
2. Be RESPECTFUL
3. Be RESPONSIBLE

#### 1. Be SAFE

- a. Sit safely in your assigned seat.
- b. Talk quietly and avoid causing distractions
- c. Keep your head, arms and body inside the bus windows.

#### 2. Be RESPECTFUL

- a. Follow the Bus Driver's directions the first time, avoid arguing with the Bus Driver.
- b. Use electronic devices appropriately and quietly.
- c. Use appropriate language and subject matter.

### 3. Be RESPONSIBLE

- a. Report bus related concerns to your Bus Driver.
- b. Keep you area clean and free of vandalism.
- c. Promote a safe and comfortable bus environment through your actions.

It is the responsibility of the Bus Driver to work with all assigned students by encouraging familiarization and compliance with the student behavior expectations established for bus service. When a student's behavior is unaffected by verbal warning or seat reassignment, it is the Driver's responsibility to issue a Bus Conduct Report. The consequences associated with each Bus Conduct Report issued to a student depends on the maturity level of the student, the severity of the student's behavior, and the number of previous behavior concerns a student has compiled during the same school year. Behavior will be investigated by interviewing witnesses and watching video. Any combination of school principal, assistant principals, behavior interventionist, bus driver and transportation supervisor will conduct investigation determining consequences of students actions.

## Courtesy Ridership on School Bus

In an effort to increase student transportation services, a Courtesy Ridership Protocol has been approved by the District's Leadership Team. Students approved for the Courtesy Ridership will be allowed to ride on District School Bus Routes designated for other schools or programs with the following limitations:

1. A request for Courtesy Ridership is submitted and approved
2. Courtesy ridership approval is limited to student attending same school as student with IEP
3. The Bus Route must be capable of adding courtesy riders without the need for route modification other than to the passenger list
4. Available empty seats must be available on the requested bus
5. The parent must be willing to self-transport if the bus capacity exceeds the federal limit for regular bus students

6. The courtesy student is successful in meeting all established behavior expectations associated with District bus service

### Bus Expectations

1. Please know school bus service is intended to be an extension of your child's school day and is available only to families who are determined to be eligible and are willing to accept the established rules, expectations, and consequences associated with the service.
2. Determination of routes, route assignments, bus stops, and bus stop times are based on overall benefit rather than any individual student or family need.
3. In order to receive bus service, your child's primary residence must be at least 3 miles from the school in which your child is enrolled or be approved by the School Board.
4. The district reserves the right to establish school boundaries and assign students based on district need.
5. A completed bus registration form with a parent/guardian signature is required to initiate new bus service or request any changes to existing bus service.
6. All students are limited to only 1 regular pick up location and 1 regular drop off location at any given time.
7. Elementary students in grades K and 1st are required to have a parent, guardian, or authorized individual to meet them at the home bus stop.
8. A parent/guardian or designated adult's signature is required for home delivery of all special needs PK students and students assigned to special needs transportation buses.
9. Students are required to be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time.
10. Bus drivers are discouraged from talking with parents at the bus stop for safety and scheduling reasons.
11. No student will be allowed off the bus at a location other than their regularly assigned bus stop or school bus zone without prior approval from a parent/guardian or school official.
12. Parent/guardians wanting to sign their child off the bus may do so only at preapproved bus stops.

13. Students are limited to having no more than one guest without prior approval from the bus driver.
14. Large carry-on items that cannot be stowed under a seat or on your child's lap may be prohibited.
15. Students are approved to eat or drink on the bus provided that it is done so in a responsible manner.
16. Animals, reptiles, and insects other than documented service animals are strictly prohibited on the bus.
17. At the home bus stop, students are considered to have missed the bus once the bus driver has cancelled the vehicle's loading lights and/or resumed forward motion.
18. At school, students are considered to have missed the bus once the bus has entered a public roadway.
19. Crossover students waiting to load or discharge from the bus are required to wait to cross the road until they have looked both ways for traffic and the bus driver has given them an "All-Clear" signal to proceed.
20. In the event that a student is issued a bus conduct report, a parent or legal guardian must sign the student copy and return it to the driver before bus privileges can resume. By signing, the parent is documenting receipt of the conduct form.
21. Students are encouraged to use electronic devices on the bus provided that they are used responsibly and quietly.
22. The bus driver is authorized to assign/reassign student seating on the bus without the need to provide formal behavior documentation or parent/guardian approval.
23. A student seating chart is required by law enforcement when the bus has been involved in an accident.
24. Video and audio surveillance is employed to help document the bus environment. Due to the limited effectiveness of bus surveillance, student behavior incidents often include witness statements.
25. For a full description of school bus service, please go on-line to [www.bsd44.org](http://www.bsd44.org) or call us at 388-0572.