

Bus Rules

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) has repeatedly determined that school buses are the safest mode of transportation to and from school, with fewer fatalities than children riding in cars, on bikes, or walking. Most school bus fatalities occur when children are outside the bus, and 75% of these fatalities involve children under the age of nine.

Help us teach our children school bus and bus stop safety. Please support the driver's authority in enforcing school bus safety and behavior rules.

- Band Instruments on Buses (see last page)
- Students are allowed to be assigned to only one stop and one bus for both the morning and afternoon. We are unable to provide service to multiple stops for a student, whether for daycare, custody issues, etc. We serve a limited number of non-profit daycares that can become your child's established stop.
- Classroom conduct is to be observed.
- No unnecessary conversation with the driver while the bus is in motion.
- Students must ride their assigned bus and each must board and depart at his or her designated bus stop. Students must present a written request from the parent/guardian to the Principal or Designee for approval of requested change.
- Students are to be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before scheduled pick-up as traffic can cause minor changes in the daily schedule and the bus will not be able to wait if it arrives slightly early.
- Students will stand well off the roadway and exhibit appropriate behavior while waiting for the bus. (Parents are responsible for students prior to boarding and after departing the bus).
- Students will board, depart and cross the roadway as per instructions from the Bus Driver.
- The Bus Driver must assign seats and students will sit in their assigned seats at all times.
- No portions of the body are permitted outside the bus windows.
- Reptiles, bugs, animals or marine life (alive or dead) are not permitted on the bus.
- Smoking, use of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes or other mood modifying substances is strictly prohibited.
- Band instruments, school projects or special equipment which interfere with the seating or safety of others are not permitted on the bus.
- Inappropriate gestures, obscenities, vulgarity or profanity will not be permitted.
- Eating, drinking or chewing gum is not permitted on the bus.
- Students will not throw any items in/out of the bus.
- Students will be responsible for VANDALISM and RESTITUTION will be required.
- Students must be absolutely quiet when the dome lights are on. Excessive noise is prohibited at all times.
- Any behavior that adversely affects the safety or well-being of others is prohibited.
- All riders must be silent at railroad crossings.

- Meet the Bus - Coordinate with other parents to ensure an adult is present at the bus stop every day. Parents are responsible for their children prior to bus arrival and after departing the bus. 1st Grade, Kindergarten and Pre-K students will not be allowed to exit the bus without an escort present.
- Remove Drawstrings - Clothing your children with drawstrings may not always be safe. Drawstrings can catch in playground equipment, fences, and school bus doors. Remove, shorten or replace drawstrings with another kind of fastener. In accordance with federal voluntary recalls, St. Lucie Public Schools has retrofitted all school and activity bus handrails that will not snag children's clothing.

As posted on all St. Lucie County school buses

The School Board of St. Lucie County Bus Safety Rules
Students must abide by the following:

1. Classroom conduct is to be observed.
2. Students must sit in their assigned seats and belts must be worn at all times the bus is in motion if so equipped. Cooperate and refrain from unnecessary conversation with the driver while the bus is in motion.
3. Students must ride their assigned bus and each student must board and depart at a designated bus stop. Students must present a written request from the parent/guardian, receive approval from, the Principal/Designee for any changes.
4. Students are requested to be at the bus stop ten (10) minutes before scheduled pick-up as the bus will not wait beyond the scheduled pick-up time.
5. Students will stand off the roadway and exhibit appropriate behavior while waiting for the bus. **Parents/Guardians are responsible for students prior to boarding and after departing from the bus.**
6. Students will board, depart and cross the roadway as per instructions from the bus driver.
7. The bus driver must assign seats and students will sit in their assigned seats at all times.
8. No portions of the body are permitted outside bus windows.
9. Reptiles, bugs, animals or marine life (dead or alive) are not permitted on the bus.
10. Smoking, use of tobacco products or other mood modifying substances is strictly prohibited.

11. **Objects that impair the driver's vision, impact safety or seating capacity are prohibited** on the school bus.
12. Inappropriate gestures, obscenities, vulgarity or profanity will not be permitted.
13. Eating, drinking or chewing gum is not permitted on the bus.
14. Students shall not throw any item in/out of the bus, shout, whistle or gesture from the window.
15. Students who are responsible for vandalism will be required to make restitution.
16. Students must be absolutely quiet at railroad crossings and when the dome lights are on. Excessive noise is prohibited at all times.
17. Any behavior that adversely affects the safety or well being of others is prohibited.

ST LUCIE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR BAND INSTRUMENTS ON SCHOOL BUSES

Large music instruments are not to be transported on school buses. Listed below are *some* of the instruments that are considered too large to be allowed on buses:

Brass Horns (Tubas and Sousaphones)
Baritone Saxophones
Contra-Bass Clarinets
Drums

French Horns
Trombones
Contra-Bassoons
Timpani

The largest instrument allowed on a school bus is an alto saxophone. A typical alto case is 25 inches long, 11 inches high and 7 inches wide.

For Field Trips, the Band Director will arrange for a truck from the Warehouse Department or make other arrangements for transporting larger instruments.

Smaller instruments that are allowed to be carried on the school bus must be kept inside the instrument case at all times and not allowed to be played on the bus at any time.

Bus drivers, band students and Band Directors, must be aware that the smaller instruments which are allowed on school buses should be placed as follows:

1. in the lap of the student who plays the instrument
2. under the seat where the student sits
3. another place the bus driver designates

In the event of collision or sudden slamming of brakes, any loose objects can become missiles and projectiles. Therefore only those items small enough to be secured as described are allowed on school buses.