

Georgia Bus Laws and Policies



PASSING STOPPED BUS

Georgia Department of Public Safety and Georgia State Troopers regularly patrol school zones keeping a close watch for school zone violations. They will also be watching for people who fail to stop for a school bus that is stopped to load or unload passengers. Georgia Law requires vehicles to stop when overtaking or meeting a stopped school bus that is loading or unloading passengers. Vehicles are required to stop in both directions for a stopped school bus that is displaying red stop lights and has the stop arm activated, except on a controlled-access highway or when the highway is divided into separate roadways. After stopping, you may proceed only when the school bus resumes motion or when the flashing lights are no longer activated.



SCHOOL BUS DISRUPTIONS

It shall be unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school, **public school bus, or public school bus stop** as designated by local school boards of education. Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Any parent, guardian, or person other than a student at the public school in question who upbraids, insults, or abuses any school teacher, administrator, or **school bus driver**while on the premises of any public school or public school bus may be ordered by any of the above-designated school personnel to leave the school premises or school bus, and upon failure to do so such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00

O.C.G.A. 20-2-1181 20-2-1182

http://www.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,5635600_6640623_146814371,00.html



BUS STOP – ROUTE INFO

IMPORTANT Notice to
Parents of School Bus Riders

Students should stand at least **12 feet** away from the road, and in front of their own residence; they should always wait on the Bus Driver to tell them when it is safe to board the bus. Each driver has been instructed to pick up students anywhere along the bus route during the first three days of school. After that time, students and/or parents will be informed of their bus stop. We do not pick-up or let children off anywhere other than their home address or designated bus stop unless prior approval by The Transportation Dept. or the student's appropriate School. We do not travel on private drives or streets.

Many students are not enrolled until after school starts. After the first week we can give you approximate pickup and drop-off times, as we get a better picture of our route needs; these times will become more consistent. **During the first couple of weeks of school, we ask that your child be at the stop at least 10-15 minutes before and after posted times.**

Times posted before or during Open House are estimates. We have instructed drivers to start their runs at the designated times for the first week, but the arrival time for your stop may not be exact. The driver may make minor adjustments (under 5 min.), but our office will notify you of major changes.

After the first week or two, we do ask that your child be at the stop 5-10 minutes before the scheduled time each day ready to board the bus. Our community must help by being patient at bus stops and obeying all flashing lights and working with their children on adhering to bus rules and behavior policies.

P.C.A.P (Pike Co. Alternative Program)

Bus Transportation is **NOT** provided for P.C.A.P. students. They will need to be brought to school via private transportation.

Pike County Schools



Transportation

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

The BUS DRIVERS of PIKE COUNTY go that "EXTRA MILE" to ensure that the most precious cargo, OUR CHILDREN, are transported to and from school and school activities safely each day. Student transportation is a FRONT-LINE support for STUDENT LEARNING.

FACTS OF INTEREST

School buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back and forth to school. Our **51** buses carry over **1900** students per day. Our buses travel over **500,000** miles yearly to provide safe transportation to and from school, on field trips, athletic and extracurricular events.

P.O. Box 386 | 16 Jackson Street, Zebulon, Georgia 30295
(770) 567-8992 | (770) 567-2893 (fax)

Afternoon Student Delivery:

Age Requirements:

In cooperation with the Department of Family and Children Services, it is the practice of Pike County School System to ensure that parents are at home before dropping off students, specifically Primary and Elementary age, hence the following criteria has been setup:

Pre-K through the Elementary (9yrs. & Younger): A Parent/Guardian, or a Parent/Guardian designee, must be visible at the bus stop or residence to receive students 9 years and younger.

If an adult is not present and visible, the bus driver will transport the student back to Pike County Primary School where the parent or guardian can pick up the student.

The Pike County School District understands that events may occur outside of the parent's control that, results in the student being returned to school. The parent shall make every reasonable attempt to communicate with the school in a timely manner. Repeated failure to receive your student as outlined above will result in the loss of bus riding privileges. If your child is returned to school a total of 3 times, one month of transportation privileges will be lost. On the 5th offense transportation privileges will be lost for the remainder of the school year.

Middle School -12th grade (10yrs. & Older):

Students can be left at the bus stop or residence **without** an adult present or visible. However, if a Parent / Guardian deem it necessary to have an adult present or visible to receive the student, then it can be requested in writing to the Pike County Transportation Department.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – F.A.Q.'s

The Transportation Department receives hundreds of phone calls on a regular basis. **At certain times (7am-8:15am) and (2pm – 4:30pm)** is our busiest time due to buses running routes. To strive to communicate in the best manner possible, the following are a list of some of our most common questions that may provide you with answers you are calling about:

WHY IS MY CHILD'S BUS LATE? Weather, traffic, driver absenteeism, maintenance difficulties, and unforeseen incidents are responsible for delays in the arrival of school buses in the morning and afternoon. This can cause the bus to be off schedule. In the event that your bus does not arrive as scheduled, please allow ten to fifteen minutes before calling the transportation office and/or school.

WHY CAN'T YOU CALL WHEN YOU KNOW THE BUS WILL BE LATE? It is simply a numbers problem. There are as many 50-70 students on each bus. We will make every attempt to make an "ALL-CALL" to parents of those affected by emergency issues or lengthy delays. Please know that there is a bus on the way and that we will do everything possible to safely transport your child in a timely manner.

WHY DID YOU SUSPEND MY CHILD FROM RIDING THE BUS? Behaviors expected on the school bus are like those in the classroom. Then, factor in the mobility of that "classroom" and traffic, and you have a lot of potential for difficulties. The behaviors expected on the bus revolve around the individual rights of every person on the bus, including the driver as it pertains to SAFETY. Anything that jeopardizes the safety of individuals on the bus is viewed as serious. Age appropriate disciplinary action is given based on a progressive discipline plan at the school level.

My Child wants to ride home with a friend today.

How do I get this approved? First you must write a permission note, giving your consent for your child to be dropped off somewhere other than their home address. This should include your child's name, the name, address, and bus # of the child you wish them to ride home with, your signature and a phone number you can be reached at for verification of the note. Your child must take this note to the office at their respective school and turn it in; this must be done as soon as they arrive, to ensure school officials have time to verify the note. Once School officials have verified the note they will issue a bus pass and give to your child. Your child must hand this pass to the bus driver upon boarding the bus. Bus drivers will not accept anything other than a school approved bus pass.

Note: Due to the number of students we can safely transport, and insure that there is not an overcrowding issue; no more than two children may ride home with a friend.

WHAT ITEMS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE BUS?

- **NO Candy, gum, food**
- **NO GLASS containers**
- **NO Bottles / cans / open containers,** (plastic WATER bottles are acceptable)
- **NO Animals (live or dead)** should be transported on a bus. The animals and their containers will be given back to teacher for storage or parents can transport their child and child's animal / containers.
- **Large or Bulky Projects**
These will be considered on a specific basis, but likely won't be allowed. Contact us with any questions.
- **Weapons, etc...** Any weapons, explosives, explosive devices, lighters, drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or any other item not allowed on school property per student handbook.

WHO IS AUTHORIZED OR ALLOWED TO RIDE OR GET ON A SCHOOL BUS?

Authorized riders on PIKE County School buses are limited to the following:

- A student enrolled in PIKE County schools PreK-12th
- Approved Field Trip adult chaperone(s)
- Pike County Schools Staff Members
- Law Enforcement personnel
- Authorized student rider on Pike County School Special Ed buses are limited to students with IEP plan, 504 plans or declaration of homeless status stating the student has special transportation.

WHY DOES MY CHILD HAVE A SEAT ASSIGNMENT?

Seat assignments are a positive way for the ride to be consistent, safe, and reinforce proper student behavior. This may also aide the driver with learning student's name and address at the beginning of the school year. It is also our policy that all students can be given a specific, assigned seat. It is an expectation that student's sit in their assigned seat, if given one by the driver.



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Zebulon, Georgia 30295
(770) 567-8992 | (770) 567-2893 (fax)
Ms. Roxane Owen - Director of Transportation
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