



GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

1100 4th STREET SOUTH

GREAT FALLS, MT 59405

TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN RIDING SCHOOL BUSES:



The Great Falls Public School District provides school bus transportation service, which is significantly more accommodating than the three (3) mile limit Montana State Law requires School Districts to provide. The basic structure to this provided service is as follows: bus service to High School Students whose legal residence is in excess of **two (2) miles** from their assigned school; bus service to Middle School Students who's legal residence is in excess of **one and one half (1 1/2) miles** from their assigned school; and bus service to Elementary School Students who's legal residence is in excess of **one (1) mile** from their assigned school.

Students can only board and de-board their assigned bus @ their assigned stop. Students are not allowed to ride home/with or get off/on @ friends bus and/or stop.

All school buses have an assigned number of students to them. This **assigned number may or may not** ride at all times. However, the **assigned number** is the **calculating number** for "**Space Available**" of each school bus. Great Falls Public School District has made the following provision: If a Parent/Guardian desires their student to ride a bus and their legal residence is closer than the limits, as listed in the first paragraph, the Parent/Guardian may contact the Great Falls Public School District Transportation Office to request permission to ride if space is available aboard a nearby bus. No added stops or changes in routes will accompany any of this type of request.

This school bus service is contracted out to **Big Sky Bus Lines 454-1283**. Any concerns regarding drivers, bus aides or the bus itself should be directed to and handled by their **Operations Manager/Assistant Operations Manager**.

Students are expected to be at their assigned bus stop **five (5) minutes** prior to the scheduled departure. Call Big Sky Bus Lines to coordinate your clock ... **454-1283**.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR:

All bus students are expected to carry out the **DRIVERS INSTRUCTIONS** the first time they are issued and do so in a respectful manner.

ALL bus students are expected to follow the following **BASIC** bus rules as well: (This List is Not All Inclusive of Bus Rules)

- 1.) **REMAIN SEATED IN ASSIGNED SEAT & FACING FORWARD**
- 2.) **NO PHYSICAL OR VERBAL ABUSE**
- 3.) **NO HARRASSMENT OF ANY TYPE**
- 4.) **NO FOUL LANGUAGE OR TALK**
- 5.) **NO CELL PHONE USE (CALL, TEXTING, PHOTO)**
- 6.) **NO EATING, DRINKING OR USE OF ANY TOBACCO PRODUCTS**
- 7.) **NO THROWING OBJECTS, LITTLERING, DEFACTING, DAMAGING THE BUS. (damage liability will be assessed to the parent/guardian)**

ALL bus rules are categorized into **SAFETY, ORDER & RIGHTS OF OTHERS**.

Students making the choice to not meet these expectations may be subject to the following progressive disciplines;

- **Written or verbal warning**
- **Three (3) day suspension from ALL buses**
- **Five (5) day suspension from ALL buses**
- **Ten (10) day suspension from ALL buses**
- **Rest of the school year suspension from ALL buses**

Immediate Suspension, for any amount of time, may occur as the result of serious misbehavior. Suspensions may carry into the next school year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT.

Special Services and Transportation 268-6015.

SP11 – revised 02/2011