



HILLSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Proudly Charting a Course for Success

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is the policy of the Hillsdale Board of Education to provide for the safety and welfare of pupils at all times. School bus transportation is a privilege and the bus driver is in charge of the bus and its riders. Please review the School Bus Rules and Safety Guidelines below with your child/children:

1. Students should be at the designated bus stop 5-10 minutes before their scheduled pick-up time.
2. As the bus arrives at the designated stop, students should stay on the curb until the bus comes to a complete stop and the red school lights are flashing.
3. Students should not push or shove others as the bus approaches.
4. Students who cross the street must wait until the driver gives them the signal that it is safe to cross. It is strongly recommended that a parent walk their child to the bus if the child has to cross the street.
5. If your child misses the bus, please do not follow the bus in your car. Drive your child directly to school.
6. When getting on the bus, students should find a seat safely and quickly, and buckle their seat belt in compliance with New Jersey state law. Students must remain in their seats while the bus is in motion. Students must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop before getting off the bus.
7. Students should keep their feet and carry-on items out of the aisle to prevent someone from tripping. Carry-on items should be placed under the seat and should never block the rear emergency exit door.
8. Students should keep their voices at a low level when talking on the bus. The driver needs to concentrate on driving and sudden loud noises can distract the driver and cause an accident.
9. Students should never put their head or hands out of the bus window. This can result in a serious injury.
10. Students should not throw anything inside the bus or out the windows. Someone inside or outside the bus can get hurt.
11. Students should keep their hands to themselves.
12. Students should not spit, eat, drink, smoke, use obscene or offensive language or gestures while on the bus.
13. Students should not damage the bus in any way; parents or the school will be held responsible for the damage.
14. If a student has a problem with someone on the bus, they should tell the bus driver and the school principal.
15. Students should not shove or push others while getting on or off the bus.
16. Just before exiting the bus on the trip home, students must always tell the driver if they are crossing the street.

17. Students should exit the bus ONLY at their designated stop.
18. Before getting off the bus, students should look alongside the bus for a passing motorcycle, bicycle, jogger, etc. passing the stopped school bus on the right side of the bus.
19. STUDENTS MUST NEVER CROSS THE STREET BEHIND THE BUS. Students are to always cross the street at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
20. Students should not stand anywhere near the bus when they get off. The bus can hit them if it turns or if they fall.
21. If a student drops something near or under the bus, they are not to pick it up. They are to notify the driver first.
22. If an evacuation is necessary, students sitting in the front half of the bus are to exit through the front passenger door. Students sitting in the rear half of the bus are to exit through the rear emergency exit door. Once outside, students are to stand at least 100 feet away from the bus. If the bus is stalled on a railroad track and a train is coming, students are to move as far away from the bus and railroad tracks as possible or as directed by the bus driver.
23. The bus driver is in charge of the bus. Students are to listen to his/her directions and help to provide a safe ride to and from school.

Students must comply with the rules above and the directions of the driver. As a reminder, the school bus and bus stop are extensions of the school day. Should a violation of the rules take place, a bus conduct report will be submitted to the school's administration. Severe misbehavior on the bus may result in immediate suspension or termination of riding privileges. Other bus infractions may result in the following disciplinary action:

- **First offense:** one day bus suspension
- **Second offense:** two week bus suspension
- **Third offense:** one month bus suspension
- **Fourth offense:** bus suspension for the remainder of the academic school year.

SCHOOL BUS RULES AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

Parents and children must review and sign below that they have read and acknowledged the School Bus Rules and Safety Guidelines in order to receive bus privileges for the 2024-2025 school year. This page needs to be submitted along with the Bus Application to the attention of Bonnie Giamanco, George White Middle School, 120 Magnolia Avenue, Hillsdale, New Jersey 07642 no later than Friday, May 31, 2024.

A separate form must be completed for each child.

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ (print)

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ (signature)

Date: _____

Student's Name _____ (print)

Student's Name _____ (signature, if child is able)

School _____

Grade _____

Date: _____