

HADLEY ELEMENTARY BUS RULES

Students are entitled to transportation to and from school as follows: (a) students living at least two miles from school and (b) students with special needs for whom transportation must be provided. (Reference: School Committee Policy EEAA)

Bus routes cannot be determined until just before the opening of school. The press will publish this information yearly during the week before the week that school starts.

RIDING THE BUS IS A PRIVILEGE. ANY INFRACTION OF BUS RULES MAY RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THIS PRIVILEGE.

The School Committee, through its school staff, shares with students and parents the responsibility for student safety during transportation to and from school. To ensure the safety of all students who ride the buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke bus privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with regulations approved by the School Committee.

Requirements for loading and unloading at bus stop:

1. Riders must be on time. Bus drivers will not wait.
2. Riders will enter or leave the bus at regular stops only.
3. Orderly behavior and respect for private property are required.
4. Instructions and directions provided by bus drivers must be followed by riders when entering and leaving the bus.

Required conduct aboard the bus:

1. Riders must remain in seats or in place when the bus is in motion.
2. Whistling and shouting are not permitted.
3. Profanity and obscene language are forbidden.
4. Smoking is prohibited.
5. Eating and drinking are prohibited
6. Food, including snacks that cannot fit in student backpacks, cannot be taken on bus.
7. The following behaviors are prohibited:
 - a. pushing or wrestling
 - b. annoying other passengers or disturbing their possessions
 - c. talking to the driver
 - d. throwing objects within the bus or out of windows
 - e. climbing over seats
 - f. opening or closing windows
 - g. leaning out of windows
 - h. littering the bus

8. Roller blades, inline skates, heales, skateboards, trading cards, and electronic devices including Game Boys, CD players, ipods, MP3 players, tape recorders, cellular phones, cameras, etc. are not allowed.

9. Parents will be held responsible for any defacing or damaging of the bus.

Procedures for drivers and parents:

1. Whenever there is misconduct on a school bus, the incident will be reported on the Bus Conduct Form

to the school principal, who will send the form with the incident recorded to the parent(s) concerned.

2. In case of a second incident of misconduct by the same student, the principal may, depending on the

severity of the misconduct, suspend the student's bus transportation privileges for a temporary period

(up to 5 school days), and notify the parents by telephone and in writing of the applicable student's

temporary suspension of bus privilege.

3. If a third incident of misconduct by the same student occurs, the student will be denied bus privilege

for an extended period (including for the rest of the school year in the case of severe misconduct), and

the student's parents will be notified of the student's extended loss of bus privilege by telephone and

in writing. The Superintendent of Hadley Public Schools will also be informed of the third incident of

bus misconduct and the denial of bus privilege for the student resulting from it. The student's parents

will take responsibility for their student's transportation during the period that he/she is denied bus

privilege.

4. The administration reserves the right to impose any of the penalties cited above on the first offense,

depending on its severity. A hearing will be held whenever this step is considered necessary,

following notification of parents and the student involved.

5. Parents need to send a note to the school with their child whenever there is a change in transportation

arrangements, which the child's regular bus driver needs to be informed of. The note should provide

the following information.

- Your child's' full name on the note
- The address of the child's change of destination
- Date of the change in transportation arrangements
- Signature of parents/guardian and phone number

- Child's homeroom teacher
- Bus route color if different than regular transportation

6. A parent, guardian or older sibling must accompany kindergarten and 1st grade students at school

bus stops for pick-up in the morning and drop-off after school. If a kindergarten or 1st grade student

has no one to meet him/her at a drop off, the bus drivers are instructed to bring the child back to the

school for the safety and protection of the applicable kindergarten and 1st grade students.

Kindergarten and 1st grade students will lose the privilege of riding the bus if their parent, or another authorized adult, is not present at the student's bus stop on three occasions during the school year.

7. In order for students on crutches to ride the regular school bus, they must first be evaluated by the school nurse for safety purposes.

8. As required by Massachusetts State Law, two evacuation drills are conducted each school year for all students, both regular bus riders, as well as for walkers and students dropped off by their parents.