

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION: All students enrolled in a regular educational program of the Vidalia City Schools who reside a distance of one (1) mile from the school to which assigned will be transported from a designated stop near their residence to the school assigned. Special Education students whose Individualized Education Programs specify that transportation be provided to and from school will be transported regardless of distance.

A. BUS STOPS - Bus stops will be determined along the predetermined routes on the basis of **safety** conditions and the density of the area's population. As a general rule, bus stops will be made no closer than one-tenth mile apart, even in the congested areas. Buses will not go off the designated bus routes for students who live less than a mile from the designated bus route nearest their residence, nor on any street or roadway that does not have a suitable turn-around point other than on private property.

B. PARENT RESPONSIBILITY It is the responsibility of the parents to get their children to and from the designated bus stops. Buses will not wait for students who are late nor wait for parents to pick up students at the bus stop in the afternoon. Parents/guardians shall be at the bus stops for Pre-K students for pick-up and drop-off.

C. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY - It is the responsibility of the student to behave himself/herself properly and abide by school rules and regulations while riding on school buses. Any student who fails to abide by the rules of conduct established by the Vidalia Board of Education could, among other alternatives, be denied riding privileges.

D. SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' RESPONSIBILITY The principal of the school to which a student is assigned is responsible for the conduct of that student from a transportation standpoint at the time he/she boards a school bus. This in no way relieves the bus driver from the responsibility to make every effort to assure the safety of students who cross the roads and streets after departing from their bus. The principal is responsible for instructing students at his school in the rules of bus conduct as set by the Vidalia Board of Education. The bus driver will have the authority and responsibility to enforce these rules of conduct while transporting students on his/her bus. If a student fails to abide by these rules of bus conduct, a written record will be presented to the appropriate principal. In all cases, the school principal will deal with the parents in cases of unacceptable conduct by the student. Under no circumstance will the driver ever put a student off the bus while en route nor administer any form of corporal punishment. However, they shall be empowered to use reasonable restraint to insure the safety of other students and their vehicle.

E. USE OF SCHOOL BUSES - The use of school buses shall be confined to transporting students to and from school except in some instances (see below) they may be used to transport students to and from school sponsored contests or activities. In no case will the bus be used for any reason other than the designed purpose when it would interfere with transporting students to and from school.

1. All group/class outings for non-educational purposes approved by the Board of Education shall require reimbursement by that group/class only for driver salaries and actual fuel usage.
2. All Board of Education approved external agency use of system owned vehicles shall require reimbursement by that agency for the total. External agency use must conform to state law and State Department of Education regulations.
3. Only certified and licensed drivers employed by the Board of Education may drive a school vehicle unless specifically approved by the Board.