



## THE 5 MINUTE RULE ... BEING AT THE BUS STOP

Each year in the “Back to School” edition of the newsletter, we remind students and parents of the requirement that students must be at their bus stop five (5) minutes prior to the regular pick-up time. **Thank you to the majority of our families who follow this rule.** However, we have some students and parents who have the misconception that the bus is supposed to wait for the students at the stops. The Department of Transportation and State Education regulations both require that students be at the bus stops 5 minutes before the regular pick-up times. **(Note: these are state regulations not just school requirements.)** The five minutes compensates for any variance in the bus run and allows the bus to stay on schedule. When the bus comes to a stop, the students can expeditiously board the bus and it can be on its way to the remaining stops.

Each time the bus has to wait for a student, not only is it holding up traffic, it delays the bus and affects the arrival times at all the remaining stops. Even as little as 30 seconds has an effect on a bus schedule. An average bus can transport 65 students. If 30 of those students take an extra 30 seconds to load the bus, it makes the bus 15 minutes late getting to school. We will not blow the horn as this is unlawful for other than to avert danger or to indicate the bus is about to back up.

If a student doesn't ride the bus for one reason or another and the bus does not need to stop for that student, it causes the bus to be early to the remaining stops -- another reason to be at the stop 5 minutes early. If there are no students waiting at a designated stop, the driver is to assume there is nobody getting on at that stop and is **not required to stop at all.** That is the driver's decision. (Those students will have missed the bus because they were not at the stop on time.)

There may be occasions when a sub driver not familiar with a specific run misses a stop because there were no students out waiting for the bus. When students are at their bus stops, it is much easier for a sub driver to recognize the stops as he/she can see the students waiting.

Our district goes well above what is required. We transport to and from the home of residence instead of pick-up points. (Except where it is not feasible to take a bus due to inadequate road conditions or having no turn-around points.) This prevents students from having to walk (depending on grade level) from 1 to 3 miles to a designated pick-up point. It allows students to stay in their home until 5 minutes prior to the bus arrival time which is especially nice during inclement weather.

Thank you for helping us to transport all our students in a safe and timely manner. Your adherence to the “5 minute rule” is sincerely appreciated. If you have suggestions regarding student transportation, please call me at 988-3254.

**Students are to be waiting for the bus not the other way around. School buses are not required to wait for the students.**