

Parent/Guardian Information

Each day, more than 25 million children line up to board those big yellow buses bound for school, sporting events or field trips.

The good news! Buses are the safest form of transportation on the road, even safer than the family car, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, which reports just one school bus accident per 500 million road miles driven.

Even so, an average of 21 children die in bus-related accidents annually, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Most accidents happen before the child is aboard the bus, inside the 10-foot “danger zone” surrounding the vehicle, which includes blind spots to the driver.

Thank you for taking the time to browse this site. Here you will find important information for your child to have a safe and positive experience on the school bus. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Transportation Department (746-4837), Monday through Friday, from 6 am to 5 pm.

Safety

Bus safety is extremely important! Buses are regularly inspected and serviced by an ASE certified mechanic.

The State of Wyoming requires all school bus drivers have a minimum of six (6) hours of annual training. WCSD # 1 Bus Drivers receive over 20-hours of annual training. All drivers are required to have current CPR and First Aid training. All drivers and mechanics are subject to random drug and alcohol testing.

Twice annually, school bus evacuation and emergency evacuation drills are conducted in order to provide the students and drivers with the knowledge and skill to know how to respond in the event of an accident or emergency.

Transporting children is a job the WCSD # 1 Transportation Department takes very seriously. Our goal is to provide safe, timely and efficient transportation for our students.

Inclement Weather

Inclement weather procedures will be implemented when necessary. The following describes the different types of delays/releases used during inclement weather:

1. **Selected route delayed busing**-Schools open as scheduled, but selected routes delayed by either one or two hours, depending on route and severity of weather.
2. **Selected route cancellations**- Schools open as scheduled, but selected routes canceled. Parents may transport students but are encouraged to stay home.
3. **Delayed school start or early release**-School start delayed by two hours or released two hours early.
4. **District wide school closures**-All schools closed.

School delays/closures will be announced on the local radio station (1240 AM KASL) by 6:00 a.m. Parents will also be contacted directly via an automated messaging system used by the District for parent notification. In order for the system to work efficiently, please make sure your student’s contact information is up-to-date.

Note: When roads are deemed “no unnecessary travel” according to state road reports, buses will **not** travel affected road.

Dressing for Inclement Weather

All students should dress appropriately for the weather. Weston County School District #1 buses are well maintained; however, breakdowns and accidents can occur. If a bus should break down or be involved in an accident, the students may be stranded on the bus until another bus can be brought to the scene to transfer the students. When a bus loses power, the interior of the bus can cool down very quickly.

Eligible Riders

All K-12 students are eligible to ride district buses; however pre-school aged children will not be able to ride buses. Students will be assigned to the bus stop closest to their address. Whenever a student needs to ride another bus or be dropped off at a different stop, a note signed by parent/guardian will be required or arrangements with the Transportation Department or School Office. In order for students to ride the bus home with their friends, both parents/guardians will need to grant permission via a note or telephone notification to the Transportation Department or School Office.

First Days of School/New Students

To help reduce confusion, we ask parents/guardians of younger or new students to call the Transportation Department (746-4837) to enroll your student on his/her bus route.

Bus Stop Safety

Parents/guardians play a key role promoting good bus stop safety by making sure their children follow these simple rules:

BEFORE boarding, a student should:

- Arrive at the bus stop **five** minutes early. Rushing often leads to carelessness.
- Wear bright colors or put reflective tape on backpacks to increase visibility.
- Take five giant steps back from the curb, which is in the driver's line of vision.
- Pack all belongings in appropriate bags so hands are free to grab the safety rail.
- Make sure clothes and backpacks don't have hanging straps or strings that may become snagged in the vehicle.
- Wait until the bus stops completely before approaching the vehicle.
- Avoid pushing or roughhousing while waiting or boarding.

WHEN leaving the bus, a student should:

- Take five giant steps away from the bus before continuing home.
- Cross in front of the bus, never behind it.
- Be alert to traffic, looking left, right and left again before crossing the street.

Note: Behavior problems that occur at bus stops are the responsibility of parents/guardians unless the Bus Driver witnesses the events unfolding while pulling up to the bus stop. If a driver observes a problem, appropriate actions will be taken. Consequences **may** include loss of bus privileges. Parents can help with bus stop safety, by taking turns monitoring the bus stop.

Video Cameras

All school buses have video cameras installed to help provide student security and safety. The cameras help reduce student bullying, vandalism, and fighting. Parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to view the video from their child's bus. The video cannot be checked out, but can be reviewed with the Transportation Director in the Transportation Office.

Bus Rules

- Students shall observe the same conduct as in the classroom.
- Students shall not use vulgar or profane language.
- Students shall not eat or drink on the bus unless given permission by the driver.
- Students shall keep the bus clean.
- Students shall cooperate with the driver of the bus.
- Students shall not use tobacco products.
- Students shall not be destructive.
- Students shall stay in their seats when the bus is in motion.
- Students shall keep their head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
- Bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
- Students shall not engage in activities that may result in injury of fellow passengers.

DON'T LOSE YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGE. MISBEHAVIOR CAN RESULT IN YOUR SUSPENSION FROM THE BUS!

Conduct Reports

Bus Conduct Reports are generated for students not following bus rules or displaying an unsafe behavior.

Bus Conduct Report #1

- Student/Parent/Guardian will be notified in writing of the misconduct.

Bus Conduct Report #2

- Student/Parent/Guardian will be notified in writing of the misconduct.
- Student will be suspended from riding the bus until Parent/Guardian meets with the Building Principal and or Transportation Director. Upon completion of a satisfactory conference, the child may regain bus riding privileges.

Bus Conduct Report #3

-Student/Parent/Guardian will be notified in writing of the misconduct.

-Student will be suspended from riding the bus for five days.

*For subsequent Bus Conduct Reports, the length of suspension will be determined by the Transportation Director and Building Principal.

Note: Students who display reckless misconduct which results in the injury of a fellow passenger; damage to the bus; or to other motorists can be removed from the bus at that time. The length of the suspension will be determined by the Transportation Director and the Building Principal.

Student P/U & Drop Off (by Parent or Guardian)

Parents/guardians transporting students to/from school are asked to use designated parking lots when picking up and delivering their children. Parents/guardians should **never** use the bus loops for student pickup/delivery as this can create a serious safety hazard for students.



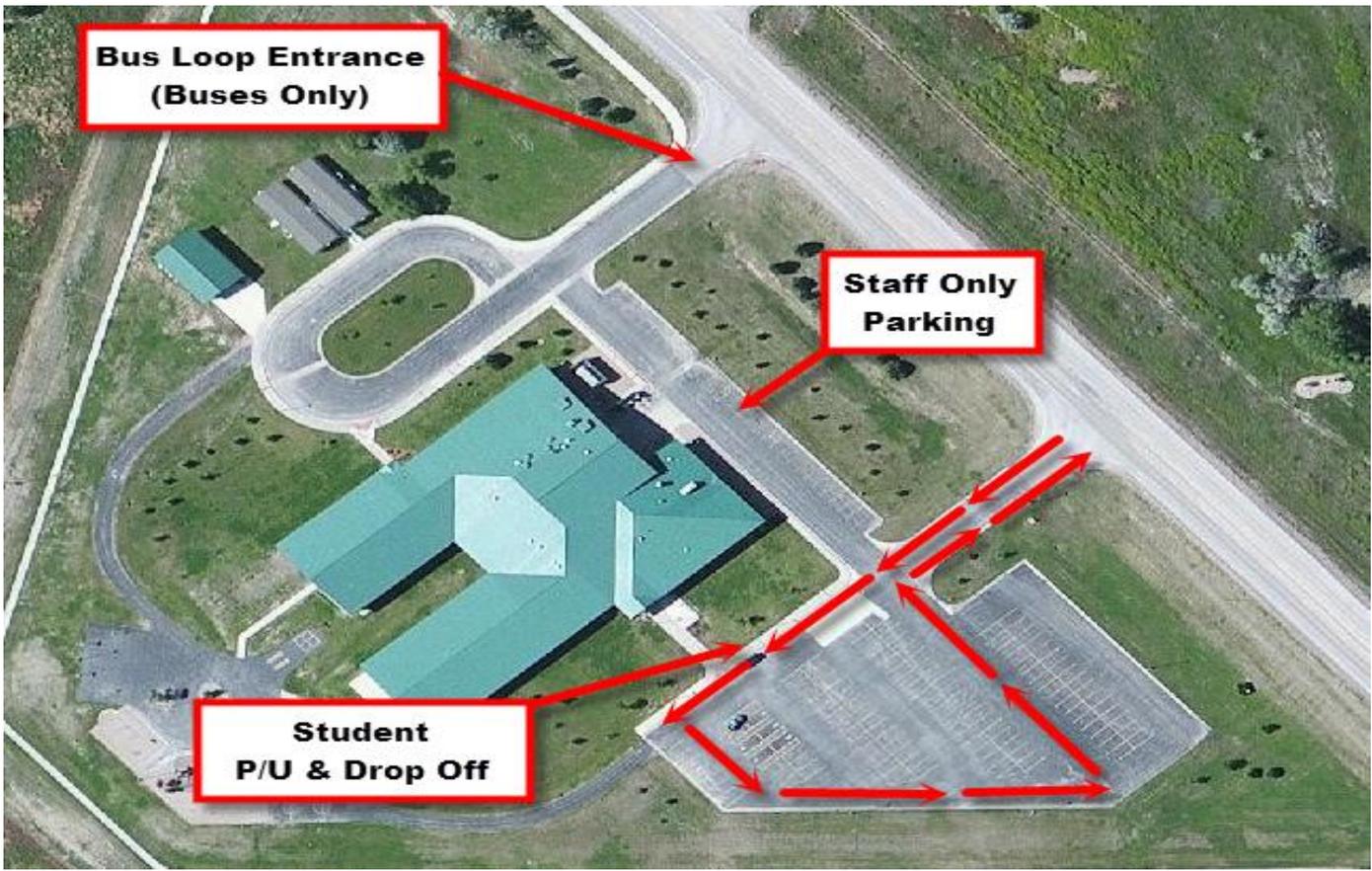
MS Staff Parking

**Bus Loop Entrance
(Buses Only)**

**HS/MS Student
P/U & Drop Off**

Exit

Entrance



Flashing Red Lights

School buses will turn on their yellow flashing lights prior to approaching a stop to inform motorists of the upcoming stop. When the bus begins to unload or load students, the red lights will begin flashing. When motorists fail to stop for the red flashing lights, it not only severely endangers our student's lives, it's against the law and you can be a fine of up to **\$750** for this infraction. Please be mindful throughout the school year when you approach school buses loading or unloading our communities' precious cargo!

