

Pickens County School Bus Rules:

1. Students will comply with the Student Code of Conduct, including school specific rules of conduct and consequences.
2. Students should be at the bus stop **5 minutes** before the bus arrives, waiting in a **safe place**, clear of traffic and **12 feet** from where the bus stops.
3. Students will help keep the bus clean by refraining from eating or drinking on the bus.
4. Students will cooperate with the driver and sit in designated seat when assigned by the driver.
- 5. Students who cross the roadway in the AM will do so only after the bus has stopped, they have looked at the driver for the hand signal, and they have looked in both directions for traffic. Students who cross in the PM will look right at the bottom of the bus steps before disembarking. They will stop at front right corner of the bus and look to driver for signal to proceed to the bus crossing arm on the left front, and then wait for driver to signal to proceed quickly across traffic lane. NEW DOE PRACTICE.**
6. Students will stay in their seat, remain properly seated (back against the back of the seat, bottom against the bottom of the seat), and keep hands to themselves until time to get off the bus. Students may get up from their seat when the driver issues the signal to do so by opening the door or giving a command to exit.
7. Students will keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus; all personal items are to be kept out of the aisle.
8. Students will be totally silent at railroad crossings (The driver is required, by law, to look and listen after establishing silence on the bus. **This is a non-negotiable safety issue and major offense when broken.**)
9. Students will signal the driver with a waving motion if something is dropped outside the bus and wait for the driver to give a signal before picking up the object. (Never, ever lose sight of the driver or do anything that would make him/her lose sight of you! This is a procedure that can never be broken if we are to keep you safe).
10. Students will refrain from using loud voices, profanity, and/or obscene gestures.
11. Electronic devices such as a cell phone, pager, computer toy, game box, laptop, beeper, radio, or tape or compact disc player may be used with headphones only. Electronic devices may not be used in a manner that interferes with the bus communication equipment or the safe operation of the bus. The bus driver may restrict the use of these devices as he/she sees necessary for the good order and safe environment of the bus. Pickens County School System is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen property.
12. Students will not use a mirror, laser, flash camera or any other light or reflective device in a manner that might interfere with the driver's operation of the bus.
13. **Transporting Projects and Prohibited Items on School Bus:** Occasionally, school projects and band instruments are transported to school. The following guidelines must be followed to ensure safety of students during a possible evacuation and the comfort and well-being of all students:

- Only projects and band instruments small enough to hold in student's lap, without interfering with the safety and comfort of others in the seat, may be transported.
- Items, including large display boards, should not exceed 18" x 24" and must not contain sharp edges, corners or sharp display objects.
- Glass, animals, chemicals, flammable/hazardous items, skateboards or similar items are prohibited and will not be transported.
- No items should be stored in aisle, driver's compartment, or in front of emergency exits.

14. **Medication Transport:** All medications other than those listed below, whether prescription or over-the-counter, may not be transported on Pickens County School buses. All medication that must be taken during the school day will be taken directly to the office by the parent or guardian in accordance with school district drug policy and guidelines. Code: JGCD

A student, for whom the school has on file supporting medical documentation, may carry at all times with parental/guardian permission, inhalers for asthma, auto-inject epinephrine for allergic reactions, and insulin for diabetes.

[STATE REF.: Georgia Board of Education Policy EBCB/JCDAD (Rule 160-5-3-.13)State Standards B 1(1a.23) LEGAL REF.: O.C.G.A., 20-2-50; 20-2-59; 20-2-188; 20-2-751.5]

STUDENTS THAT MISS THE BUS IN THE AM

If a Pickens County student misses their assigned bus in the AM and the assigned bus is on schedule for that stop, the student will need to be transported to their school by a parent or guardian.

For the safety of your student, do not bring your student to another stop to board the bus. Drivers will not be looking for your student(s) at another stop, and do not need to be distracted from loading other students at their assigned stop.

NO ONE HOME IN THE PM TO RECEIVE STUDENTS

If a Pickens County Student, under the age of 9 years old, is delivered home and no one is there to receive them, the driver will be instructed to return the student to the school where the parent may pick them up. Drivers will not be allowed to turn around in an unassigned area.

Ref: State DOE Best Practices.

Bus Passes and Student Safety

The Pickens County Transportation Department provides basic transportation service for students to their assigned stops in the morning and afternoon. ***A student shall be assigned one stop location for morning and one assigned stop location for afternoon.*** For safety reasons, changes in bus transportation without prior approval will not be permitted. Students who board a bus other than their assigned bus or request to get off the bus other than at their assigned stop, ***without written permission from the school administration,*** will be returned to the school. The practice of routinely issuing bus passes causes inconsistency and confusion for everyone - the student, the school staff, the driver, and the parent. Please cooperate with the school and make car transportation arrangements, if possible, whenever your student(s) need to be taken to any location other than their regular assigned afternoon bus stop.